CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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Over 100 voices call for restored India-Pakistan ties

Joint appeal seeks dialogue, diplomacy and stronger people-to-people engagement between neighbouring nations immediately

NEW DELHI

More than 100 prominent politicians, former diplomats and civil society representatives from India and Pakistan have jointly appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to revive diplomatic engagement and restore normal bilateral relations.

The open letter, signed by 116 individuals—61 from India and 55 from Pakistan—calls for sustained dialogue, restoration of diplomatic ties, revival of trade and transport links, and expanded people-to-people exchanges.

Among the signatories are Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, former RAW chief A. S. Dulat, Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha, former Union minister Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Pakistan foreign minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

Coordinated by OP Shah, chairman of the Centre for Peace and Progress, the letter urges both governments to reinstate high commissioners, resume normal visa services and restart comprehensive bilateral dialogue covering all outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir.

The signatories also called for reopening trade routes, restoring transport services such as the Delhi-Lahore bus, Samjhauta Express and Thar Express, reopening the Attari-Wagah border for trade, and expanding cultural, academic and business exchanges.

The appeal further seeks reopening of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor and easier access to Sharada Peeth for pilgrims.

The future of South Asia should be shaped not by division and conflict, but by peace, prosperity and shared progress.

—Joint appeal

Major recommendations

The signatories urged both governments to restore full diplomatic relations by reinstating high commissioners, reopening trade and transport links, reviving comprehensive bilateral dialogue and easing visa restrictions. They also sought greater cultural, educational and business exchanges, reopening of cross-border transport services, and measures that promote peace and cooperation, arguing that continued hostility limits opportunities for nearly two billion people across South Asia.

PEACE APPEAL AT A GLANCE

Total signatories: 116
From India: 61
From Pakistan: 55
Appeal to: PM Narendra Modi & PM Shehbaz Sharif
Key demands: Dialogue, trade, visas, transport, diplomatic ties

Principled professionals can uphold fearless journalism: CM

BENGALURU

Stressing that fearless journalism has become increasingly challenging in the present media landscape, Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Wednesday said only journalists who uphold professional ethics and principles can truly serve society.

Addressing the Press Day celebrations organised by the Karnataka Media Academy and the Karnataka Working Journalists' Association at Gandhi Bhavan, Shivakumar urged media professionals to remain committed to truth, integrity and public interest while resisting the spread of fake news.

He said journalism must free itself from misinformation, noting that inaccurate reporting not only damages individuals but also erodes public trust in the profession.

Sharing a recent experience, the Chief Minister said he had visited a hospital for a routine health check-up earlier in the day, but some television channels falsely reported that he had been admitted.

"I had gone to the hospital for a routine health check-up. But some TV channels broadcast that I had been admitted to the hospital. This is completely false news," he said.

Recalling another incident during the Mekedatu Padayatra, Shivakumar said visuals of him appearing exhausted were deliberately misrepresented to suggest he was walking under the influence of alcohol.

"If I make a mistake, expose it. But don't publish or broadcast false news. Until a news item is published, it belongs to the journalist. After publication, it becomes the property of society. Therefore, every news item must contain truth and honesty," he said.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the legacy of great leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, who practised journalism with integrity and elevated the profession's stature. He urged today's journalists to preserve that tradition by adhering to ethical standards.

If I make a mistake, expose it. But don't publish or broadcast false news. Every news item must contain truth and honesty.

—D.K. Shivakumar, Chief Minister

Press Day 2026

Event: Press Day celebrations
Venue: Gandhi Bhavan, Bengaluru
Organisers: Karnataka Media Academy & Karnataka Working Journalists' Association
Chief Message: Ethical journalism is essential for fearless reporting
Focus: Combating fake news and protecting public trust

CM calls for restoring public trust in journalism

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said journalism carries a responsibility that extends beyond reporting events, as every published story ultimately becomes part of the public domain. He urged journalists to verify facts thoroughly before publication and avoid sensationalism driven by misinformation. Emphasising that the credibility of the media depends on truth and ethical conduct, he said society benefits when journalists follow professional principles, conscience and integrity. He also recalled the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi to journalism, urging the media fraternity to uphold that legacy by ensuring accuracy, fairness and accountability in every report.

Deputy Chief Minister assures drought preparedness amid rainfall deficit and growing water concerns statewide

₹5 cr allocated to every district for drinking water supply: DCM

BELAGAVI

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara on Wednesday announced that the state government has allocated ₹5 crore to every district to ensure adequate drinking water supply amid below-normal rainfall and growing concerns over drought-like conditions.

Addressing a press conference in Belagavi, Parameshwara said the region was experiencing a rainfall deficit, resulting in falling groundwater levels and raising the possibility of drinking water shortages if the monsoon does not improve.

He said the government has prepared a comprehensive action plan, which will be implemented by Deputy Commissioners to tackle water scarcity and monitor crop losses.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the government would continue reviewing the situation and initiate timely measures to minimise hardships for the public.

On revenue administration, he said programmes such as Pouthi Khata, distribution of title deeds, Akar Bandh and declaration of revenue villages would be accelerated for completion within a fixed timeline.

Parameshwara also said district authorities have been instructed to survey and clear encroachments on properties belonging to Category A, B and C temples. He added that temple funds should be utilised only with proper approval and that standard operating procedures would be introduced to ensure transparency.

Highlighting sports development, he said the government would improve sports infrastructure in schools and colleges lacking adequate facilities and continue extending support to athletes. He also announced 3% reservation in Home Department recruitment and 2% reservation in recruitment to other government departments for sportspersons.

Key announcements

- ₹5 crore allocated to each district for drinking water.
- Action plan to tackle water scarcity.
- Temple encroachments to be surveyed and cleared.
- Sports infrastructure to be strengthened.
- Reservation: 3% in Home Department, 2% in other departments for sportspersons.

Drought declaration only after assessment

Parameshwara said the government has not yet discussed declaring any district or taluk drought-hit. He explained that such a decision would be based on established parameters, including rainfall deficiency, crop damage and groundwater availability. He also clarified that the government is not currently considering cloud seeding .

TN moves SC against Madras HC's blanket cow slaughter ban

NEW DELHI

The Tamil Nadu government has approached the Supreme Court challenging the Madras High Court's order imposing a blanket ban on the slaughter of cows and calves across the state, arguing that the ruling is inconsistent with existing state law.

In its petition, the state sought to set aside the High Court's May 27 order, which directed the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police to ensure that no cow or calf was slaughtered anywhere in Tamil Nadu, either on the eve of Bakrid or on any other day.

The High Court had relied on a 1976 judgment that emphasised the importance of prohibiting cow slaughter to promote milk production and strengthen the rural economy.

However, the Tamil Nadu government contended that the order overlooks the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Animal Preservation Act, 1958, which permits the slaughter of cows above 10 years of age that are certified by a competent authority as unfit for work or breeding.

Maha Kumbh rush allegedly enabled Ram temple donation fund siphoning

LUCKNOW

Investigators probing the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya have found that the largest diversion of funds allegedly occurred during the Maha Kumbh pilgrimage, when an unprecedented influx of devotees led to a sharp rise in cash offerings.

According to sources, the massive crowds visiting the temple during the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj created conditions that allegedly allowed the accused to siphon off significant amounts from the donation collections. While investigators believe the misappropriation had been occurring for several months, the highest volume of alleged embezzlement coincided with the pilgrimage period.

The probe has identified Luvkush Mishra and his brother-in-law, Anukalp Mishra, as the two accused who allegedly diverted the largest share of the temple funds. Both are among the eight individuals arrested in the case and are currently in judicial custody.

Investigators have also traced immovable assets allegedly acquired by the duo. Officials are expected to seek assistance from the Income Tax Department and other agencies to establish the money trail and determine whether the alleged proceeds were invested in properties or other assets.

Earlier searches at Luvkush Mishra's residence in Meenapur Thakuran Fagauli village in Ayodhya reportedly led to the recovery of around ₹12 lakh and several documents. Mishra, who was responsible for counting cash offerings at the temple, had previously worked as a car mechanic before joining the temple trust.

Police sources further claimed that Anukalp Mishra owns a farmhouse and a luxury residence in Ayodhya. Authorities are continuing financial investigations to identify additional assets and possible beneficiaries linked to the alleged fraud.

HARIPRASAD CLAIMS RAM MADHAV MET PAK OFFICIALS

BENGALURU

Karnataka Congress president B K Hariprasad on Wednesday alleged that RSS leader Ram Madhav held four "secret" meetings with Pakistani officials, including a former major-general of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and demanded an explanation over the alleged interactions.

Addressing a meeting of the Congress campaign committee ahead of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) civic polls, Hariprasad claimed Madhav met Pakistani representatives in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and London, citing media reports. He questioned whether Madhav had any official authorisation to engage in such meetings.

However, Ram Madhav has already rejected the allegations. In a statement issued earlier, he clarified that he had attended only a session of the South Asia Dialogue organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in Colombo and did not participate in any Track-2 dialogue with Pakistan.

KHAMENEI FUNERAL INVITE

Iran invites Kharge, Khurshid, Khera for Khamenei funeral

NEW DELHI

Iran has invited Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid and Congress leader Pawan Khera to attend the funeral and burial ceremonies of late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, sources said on Wednesday.

The invitation comes as Tehran prepares to host a series of official mourning and burial events from July 3 to July 9, with delegations from several countries expected to participate.

According to reports, Bihar Governor Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain and Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita are likely to lead the Indian delegation. However, the final composition of the delegation is yet to be announced.

The development follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent telephone conversation with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, during which the Iranian leader extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to attend the ceremonies. However, Modi is understood to be unavailable due to his scheduled visits to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand between July 6 and 11.

Diplomatic sources said the ceremonies will be held in Tehran and the holy city of Qom, while Khamenei will be laid to rest in Mashhad, one of Iran's most significant pilgrimage centres. Officials said the choice of Mashhad as the burial site reflects the stature accorded to Khamenei following his assassination.

Ceremonies: July 3–9
Likely Indian delegation leaders: Syed Ata Hasnain, Pabitra Margherita
Burial venue: Mashhad, Iran
Ceremonial venues: Tehran and Qom
Invited Congress leaders: Mallikarjun Kharge, Salman Khurshid, Pawan Khera

Modi unlikely to attend

PM Modi was invited by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian during a recent phone conversation to attend the funeral ceremonies. However, he is unlikely to travel to Iran due to previously scheduled visits to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand from July 6 to 11. The Indian delegation is therefore expected to be led by other senior representatives, though the government is yet to announce the final list of participants.

QUICK READ

VTU results out in 5 mins after 6th semester exam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has aced its own game of announcing results immediately after the completion of the examinations. It improved on its record by announcing the results of the sixth semester engineering exam just five minutes after the exam ended.A total of 60,856 students appeared for the BE and BTech sixth semester exams. The exam concluded at 5.30pm Tuesday, and the results were announ ced at 5.35 pm. Compared to previo us yea rs, the entire evaluation process of the rest of the papers was comple ted 21 days earlier. A total of 76. 84 percent pas s per centage was reco rded. The VTU Vice- Chancellor, Prof S Vidyashankar, said, sudents wait eagerly for their results. Hence, we de cided to announce the m as quickly as possible. With proper pre paration, we are able to release the results immediately.

Fire mishaps: GBA orders fire-safety audit in Chickpet

CH NEWS, BENGALURU With Chickpet remaining vulnerable to fire accidents due to its dense commercial activity and narrow lanes, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) ordered an immediate fire-safety audit of buildings in the central Bengaluru locality to assess firefighting systems, emergency exits and overall emergency preparedness. Chairing a review meeting, GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao directed officials to constitute a special team of town planners to conduct a comprehensive survey of all buildings in Chickpet division. The team has been asked to identify unauthorised buildings, issue notices to owners and initiate action.

APS Educational Institutions gets new office- bearers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU New office bearers have been elected to APS Educational Institution, one of the oldest educational institutions in the city, which runs a total of 14 educational institutions. Vishnu Bharat Alampalli (President), IS Prasad and RV Vijay Bhaskar (Vice-Presidents), A Prakash (General Secretary), KS Akhilesh Babu (Treasurer), P Krishnaswamy and A Ram Prasad (Joint Secretaries), AP Acharya, AR Acharya and A Muralidhar (Permanent Members), TV Prabhu, C Nagaraj, HV Gautama, KP Narasimha Murthy, Rajiv, Mohan Dev Alva, Vijayanand, Manjunath, Kishore Kumar and Manjula Bindu Madhava Rao have been elected as the elected trustees, the organization said in a statement.

Agnikul-ICEYE join hands to build, launch SAR satellites from India

The partnership aims to combine ICEYE's expertise in SAR satellite technology and planned satellite manufacturing capabilities in India with Agnikul's indigenous responsive launch systems.

BENGALURU

Indian private space startup Agnikul Cosmos on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Finnish satellite operator ICEYE to explore the development of an end-to-end sovereign Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) earth observation capability in India, marking a step towards strengthening the country's indigenous space-based intelligence infrastructure.

The partnership aims to combine ICEYE's expertise in SAR satellite technology and planned satellite manufacturing capabilities in India with Agnikul's indigenous responsive launch systems.

The companies plan to explore a model where satellites are manufactured in India and launched aboard Agnikul's rockets, reducing dependence on overseas launch schedules while supporting national security, disaster management and critical infrastructure monitoring.

Reducing reliance on foreign launch timelines

"Previously, building and launching a satellite system privately in India mostly meant piecing together foreign technology and waiting on timelines that we as a nation did not control," said Srinath Ravichandran, co-founder and chief executive officer of Agnikul Cosmos.

"Applications such as disaster response, sensitive area monitoring and security are national priorities, and India deserves sovereign capabilities to support them," he added.

The companies also intend to develop a repeatable satellite-to-launch model capable of supporting long-term deployment programmes in India as well as international markets.

"What makes this collaboration particularly exciting is that it goes beyond a single mission," said Moin SPM, co-founder and chief operating officer of Agnikul Cosmos. "By combining manufacturing, launch and operational capabilities under one ecosystem, we can create a repeatable model that can support long-term deployment programmes for customers in India and around the world."

Focus on sovereign space capabilities

ICEYE, which operates the world's largest SAR satellite constellation, said India is emerging as an important market for sovereign intelligence capabilities.

"India is an important market for us as demand for sovereign intelligence capabilities continues to grow globally. Partnerships built around speed, reliability and long-term execution are becoming increasingly important in these times and this is what we seek to build with Agnikul," said Rafał Modrzewski, co-founder and CEO of ICEYE.

The Finnish company has launched more than 70 SAR satellites and has delivered sovereign satellite constellations to seven European governments, including Poland, Sweden and Germany. It views India as a potential Asia-Pacific manufacturing hub capable of producing satellites for both domestic programmes and export markets.

For Agnikul, the partnership expands its portfolio of international collaborations across India, the Middle East and Australia. The announcement was made at BharatInnovates in Nice, France, where the Chennai-based startup showcased its reusable launch vehicle technology. Agnikul completed its maiden launch in 2024 from India's first private launchpad, using its in-house developed single-piece 3D-printed rocket engine.

Core features of the partnership

- **END-TO-END EXECUTION**: It combines ICEYE's expertise in radar satellite technology with Agnikul's 3D-printed rocket engines and responsive launch services.
- **MANUFACTURING HUB**: ICEYE is exploring setting up satellite manufacturing facilities in India, establishing the country as a major base for Asia-Pacific operations.
- **ICEYE CONSTELLATION**: ICEYE operates the world's largest commercial SAR constellation with more than 70 satellites in orbit, and has delivered sovereign constellations to several governments.
- **AGNIKUL'S ROLE**: Agnikul Cosmos, which is incubated at IIT Madras, will use its indigenous launch vehicle to put the jointly built satellites into orbit from India's private launch pads.

Tahsildar launches SIR in Hoskote

BENGALURU

Tahsildar and Assistant Returning Officer TS Sheetal launched Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls of Hoskote Assembly constituency.

Speaking on the occasion of launching the drive at International veteran sportsperson and Yoga practitioner K Manjunath at Hoskote, she said, the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have been assigned the task of collecting the required information from voters by visiting them personally.

The constituency has 293 Polling stations and 293 BLOs, 6 Nodal Officers have been appointed for this purpose. The work will be carried out till July 19 and final draft voters list will be published by October. The voters are required to provide the information required and verify the details in the enumeration form. Opportunity has been provided to correct the details including mobile number, change of photo. The family members must fill out the application within seven days and hand over the same to BLOs. When the BLOs visit the houses, the elders present can sign the forms on behalf of everyone, she said.

As per the instructions of Election Commission, the BLOs have been asked to carry out the work along with their normal work. If they find any problems, they can bring it to the notice of Nodal Officers, she said.

Man steals iPhone of accident victim, siphons off Rs 3.5L

BENGALURU

A Good Samaritan act turned out to be an abominable fraud when a man, pretending to help a 36-year-old private firm employee injured in a road accident, stole the latter's iPhone and then used it to siphon off over Rs 3.5 lakh from his bank account.

According to a complaint filed by Sachin Prasad, a resident of Yelahanka New Town, he met with an accident near Allalasandra in Yelahanka on June 19 while driving his car. While I was driving, a pedestrian suddenly crossed my path. I instinctively swerved to save him, but lost control and rammed the car into the road divider, he told.

The car's airbags were deployed but Prasad sustained a fracture to one of his hands. Minutes later, a few passers-by rushed to help him. I remember that about four people came to help me while I was struggling to call an ambulance.

One of them spoke to me and, noticing that I was finding it difficult to make the call, asked for my iPhone, he said. Little did Prasad know that the helping hand would turn out to be a thief's.

The man moved a short distance away on the pretext of calling an ambulance. Meanwhile, more people gathered at the accident spot, and the man fled with the phone.

I kept telling people that someone had taken away my phone, but they were focused on helping me.

I was rushed to a nearby hospital, where I was admitted, Prasad said. After being discharged on June 24, Prasad obtained a replacement sim card and soon began receiving SMS alerts about unauthorised transactions from his bank account.

The thief had removed the sim card from the iPhone and inserted it into an Android phone.

He created a UPI ID and activated UPI Lite linked to Prasad's Bank of Baroda account. Between June 20 and 25, he transferred Rs 3,51,600 to multiple bank accounts.

Realising the cyberfraud, Prasad immediately blocked his bank account and reported the fraud to cyber helpline 1930. Later, he visited the bank and complained about the transactions.

The bank staff told me they were looking into the issue, but they haven't given me any explanation about how they allowed someone to create a new UPI ID and transfer the funds.

My number was linked to two bank accounts, one is with Bank of Baroda and another with ICICI Bank.

The miscreant tried to siphon off money from the ICICI account too, but he was unable to do it, Prasad said.

When one bank takes preventive measures such as double authentication soon after a new UPI ID is created, why other banks don't also do the same, he asked.

A senior officer said a case has been registered at north-east cybercrime police station, and Rs 2 lakh has been frozen in the fraudster's accounts.

Type effort costs traveller Rs 7,000

BENGALURU

A simple typing error while booking a train ticket turned into a costly lesson for an IT professional, who was fined more than Rs 7,000 and treated as a ticketless traveller despite carrying a valid reservation and identity proof.

After quitting his job in Bengaluru, 24-year-old Ramakant M was preparing to return to his hometown, Nagpur, Maharashtra, on June 23. Around 8pm, he boarded Train 22691 KSR Bengaluru–Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express.

The journey appeared routine until the Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) arrived to verify tickets. Seated in his reserved second AC berth, Ramakant showed his e-ticket on his phone. What followed left him stunned."When I displayed the ticket, the TTE asked me to come with him to the first AC coach.

Another TTE joined us there. They told me my ticket was invalid and that I might have to pay a penalty amounting to twice the fare," Ramakant recalled.According to him, the officials pointed out that his age had been entered as 1 instead of 24 while booking the ticket. Initially, I thought there was some problem with their system. But when I checked the ticket myself, I realised it was a typing error from my end," he said. Ramakant said he immediately produced his ID proof to establish his age and identity.

B'luru IT firm daycare centre staff under scanner for abuse

BENGALURU

Police have booked five women employed at a daycare centre inside an IT company campus in Bengaluru after videos purportedly showing toddlers being abused surfaced, triggering an investigation into allegations of physical assault and cruelty.

The alleged incidents took place at a childcare facility in Brookefield, where employees of the IT company leave their young children while they are at work, police said on Wednesday.

The matter surfaced on Monday after videos purportedly showing the abuse were circulated on WhatsApp and reported to the Child Helpline, prompting police action.According to police, the footage allegedly shows children crying while being subjected to physical abuse and intimidation by the caregivers.

Toddlers put inside washing machine, water sprayed into mouths with toilet jet, 5 staffers booked

Investigators said the videos purportedly show the women threatening toddlers aged between two and three years whenever they cried or created a disturbance. According to the complaint, the caregivers allegedly placed children inside a front-loading washing machine, made them sit on a western-style toilet, sprayed water into their mouths using a toilet jet spray, locked them inside bathrooms and threatened them into remaining silent.

Based on the complaint, police registered a case against the five women under relevant provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

"The accused women are being questioned, and we are also verifying the authenticity of the videos and trying to establish when the incidents occurred and whether more children were subjected to similar abuse, he said. No arrests have been made so far, police said, adding that further investigation is underway.

Development will be given high priority: MLA

BENGALURU

Along with women empowerment, MLA ST Somashekhar said that development will be given high priority by organizing sports and religious activities for the youth of the constituency.

He was speaking at the prize distribution ceremony for the women who participated in the Rangoli competition organized as part of Women's Day celebrations in Talaghattapur, Kengeri, Kengeri Kote and Byadarahalli wards at Modi Ground in Kommagatta of Yeshwantpur assembly constituency.

Somashekhar said that he has never celebrated his birthday in his political life.

He said that he considers every day of development of the constituency, including women's programmes, religious activities, festivals, cricket tournaments for youth, kabaddi, volleyball, wrestling, Dasara celebrations, Sankranti celebrations, as well as every day of development of the constituency as his birthday and that he has been satisfied in working as a servant according to the expectations of the people of the constituency.

Youth leader Nishant Somashekar said that Yeshwantpur constituency MLA ST Somashekar is not someone who comes once in 5 years, but he has an attitude of responding to the hardships and happiness of the people of the constituency by providing financial assistance to students who have scored the highest marks in the SSLC and PUC annual examinations to supplement the educational progress of the children of wage laborers and emphasizing the construction of maternity hospitals, dialysis centers, and government college buildings for women's health.

PATHS NOT REALLY FOR WALKING

When pedestrians pushed off Bengaluru footpaths!

BENGALURU

Imagine a footpath so unusable that almost everyone chooses to walk beside speeding buses instead. Welcome to Dinnur Main Road, one of RT Nagar's busiest neighbourhood connectors.

Nearly 90% of pedestrians walking on the busy carriageway despite the presence of footpaths. Encroachments, garbage, parked vehicles, and broken infrastructure have reduced footpaths to a strip here, barely any space, barely any walkers.

Instead of doing a fine balancing act on footpaths, citizens throw themselves in harm's way by walking on the extreme edge of the road caressing the kerb, with the constant buzz of traffic for company.

The corridor connects RT Nagar with Sultanpalya and several surrounding neighbourhoods, carrying a steady stream of BMTC buses, school buses, cars, and two-wheelers through the day. Hundreds of residents, students, and shop-

pers use the stretch daily, yet pedestrians are left with little choice but to share the road with moving traffic.

Large sections of the footpath have been taken over by fruit vendors, cobbler kiosks, temporary stalls, banners, and commercial spill over.

In several places, shopkeepers have parked vehicles directly on the pavement, leaving virtually no room for people to walk. Garbage heaps make matters worse. Waste, discarded furniture, dry tree trunks, and branches occupy entire sections of the footpath, forcing pedestrians onto the carriageway.Continuity is another casualty.

The footpath frequently narrows, disappears, or is blocked by encroachments and overgrown vegetation, forcing pedestrians to keep switching between the pavement and the road.

At several locations, the usable width shrinks to less than a metre.The situation is especially worrying around schools. Several children walking on the road because footpaths were either blocked or unusable.

Dinnur Main Road is relatively narrow for the traffic it carries, and buses travelling in opposite direction often leave barely enough space along the edge of the carriageway.

For pedestrians pushed off the footpath, every walk becomes a risky negotiation with traffic. For a corridor lined with homes, schools, and businesses, the pedestrian infrastructure falls well short of what the neighbourhood demands. Footpaths have been in this condition for years without good remedy.

Senior citizens, like my mother, cannot use many of these footpaths because of the huge difference in levels. The roads, too, are in poor condition, and traffic is menacingly overwhelming: Sunitha Sonu, Kaval Byrasandra resident.

QUICK READ

Karnataka govt transfers 4 IAS officers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) has appointed Divya Prabhu GRJ as the Commissioner of the Rural Development Department. Dr Arundhati Chandrashekar, who was in additional charge of this post till now, is released. Abhiram G Shankar has been given the responsibility of Managing Director of Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC), and Dr Avinash Menon has been given the responsibility of Director of the Department of Information Technology and Biotechnology (ITBT). Menon has been given the additional post of Managing Director of Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation (KEONICS). AM Yogish has been transferred as the Director of the Agricultural Marketing Department. H Prasanna, who had been holding this post in addition till now, has been relieved.

GBA seals ZEPTO store in Vidyaranyapura

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Grater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) staff locks Zepto store in Vidyaranyapura. The Zepto store was seized for not obtaining a trade license. The youths protested against the incident. What is our story if we suddenly lock down. They are protesting fiercely about how to live. Gig workers from across the state have also come out with them.

'Cong govt trying to stall SIR by not appointing BLOs'

The Leader of the Opposition said the government had appointed only 10 BLOs as against the required 30 in a particular section.

BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP has accused the Congress government of trying to stall the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) by creating obstacles in the appointment of Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok alleged that the Congress government had intentionally desisted from appointing BLOs in many places to stall the SIR.

Citing an example in the city, he said the government

had appointed only 10 BLOs as against the required 30 in a particular section. Even those BLOs were complaining that the government had not provided allowances to them and had not granted permission yet to attend to their duty, he alleged.

"The purpose of SIR is to ensure that only genuine voters remain in the electoral rolls. But this process looks suspicious as in Jayanagar, non-officials and Congress leaders have been appointed as BLOs in 20 places. In Chamarajpet, BLOs are showing photos of Zameer Ahmed Khan, Congress MLA, during their visits to voters' houses, though they are not supposed to display any party symbols," he alleged.

Discrimination in grants

.Ashok expressed displeasure over what he described as discrimination in release of development grants for the Assembly constituencies in Bengaluru by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

"While Congress MLAs' constituencies have received ₹100 crore, BJP MLAs' areas have got only ₹40-50 lakh. Pointing out that a majority of Assembly constituencies in the city are represented by BJP MLAs, he expressed concern that such discrimination in release of development grants was bound to affect Bengaluru's development.

MP Surya's plea triggers Namma Metro disruption probe

BENGALURU

The Central Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety has ordered the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the technical faults and anomalies occurring in our metro and submit a report.

He has ordered the agency to submit a comprehensive investigation report on all technical failures that have occurred in the last two and a half years.

On June 23, there was a technical fault and service disruption on the Purple Line of Namma Metro. In this regard, MP Tejasvi Surya, who had written a letter to Railway Safety Commissioner and Bengaluru Urban Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, had mentioned that 'more than 20 technical faults and service disruptions have been reported in Namma Metro services in the three years from January 2024 to now, out of which the Purple Line has been the most disrupted.' He had requested that an urgent safety audit be conducted on the repeated technical faults in Namma Metro and a comprehensive report be obtained from BMRCL.

In an official reply to the MP's letter, Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, Janak Kumar Garg, said, I have directed the Managing Director of BMRCL to conduct a thorough investigation and submit a report not only on the service disruption that occurred on June 23, but also on all the series of disruptions that have occurred in our metro operations in the last three years.

12 Bangladeshi nationals detained in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police have arrested 12 Bangladeshi nationals who had come to India via West Bengal and were illegally residing in the city and were involved in immoral activities.

Suhag Monsurali (29) and Mukul (32), both Bangladeshi nationals, have been arrested. The other 10 women have been taken into custody and handed over to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) officials, officials said.

Information was received that some women were being brought from Bangladesh through human trafficking and forced into prostitution in the Banaswadi and Hennur police stations. On receiving this information, ACP Dharmendra of the Women Protection Division of the CCB and his team conducted an operation a few days ago and raided the house of the accused. During this, the police have informed that it has come to light that the accused are running a prostitution business by keeping women.

Bangladeshi identity cards and other documents were found with the two arrested accused and the women they rescued. Also, during the interrogation of the accused, they had entered India via West Bengal two months ago. At that time, thousands of rupees were paid to middlemen at the border.

The women were brought to India. They have stated that they have been living in the city for a month. They were engaged in prostitution by posting photos of women through social media. It has been found that customers were contacted through acquaintances, the police said.

Preparation for deportation: 12 Bangladeshi nationals were handed over to the officials of the Foreign Regional Registration Office, and when they checked their documents, it was found that they had entered India illegally. Therefore, an inquiry has been conducted, statements have been recorded and further legal action has been taken. Sources said that the documents of the 12 people are being prepared for deportation.

HC Justice recuses from hearing petitions challenging Gig Workers Act

BENGALURU

Justice Suraj Govindaraju has recused himself from hearing a petition challenging the constitutional validity of the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act-2025, implemented by the state government, and the rules framed thereunder.

As the hearing began on Wednesday morning, Justice Suraj Govindaraju adjourned the hearing, directing the Registrar General to transfer the petition to another bench and not to hear it by this bench.

Background of the case: The Internet and Mobile Association of India, the country's leading e-commerce and consumer technology company Swiggy, Zomato (Eternal Limited), Zepto, Urban Company and Valmo Transportation (Misho) had jointly filed a petition challenging the constitutional validity of the state government's rules.

In their petition, the petitioners had requested that the welfare fee payment notices

The petitioners approached the court arguing that the state's Act overlaps the centre's law- Social Security Code-2020.

and show cause notices issued recently by the state government and the Gig Workers Welfare Board be completely quashed.

The Central Government has already enacted a comprehensive and uniform Central law called 'Social Security Code-2020' for the entire unorganized sector workers, including gig and platform workers, across the country.

The companies have stated in the petition that while this Central law is in force and applicable to the entire country, the state government's framing of a separate and parallel law on the same subject is completely illegal and unconstitutional under Article 254 of the Constitution.

Also, under the central law, companies are already required to contribute to the social security fund based on annual turnover. Following this, the state government is imposing a separate welfare fee based on each transaction, putting a huge financial burden on the industries.

The state government has not yet officially announced any specific welfare scheme for gig workers. However, the petition states that it has issued a notice mandating payment of welfare fees and quarterly audit by July 5, which is illegal.

Algorithmic disclosure

According to Section 13 of the state law, companies are required to disclose the secret workings of their automated monitoring systems and pricing algorithms. We are fully committed to the safety and welfare of gig workers. We already provide our own health insurance, accident insurance and maternity benefits to workers voluntarily.

Patil seeks railway coach depot in Vijayapura

BENGALURU

A request has been made to Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna to establish a coach depot and develop another arrival and departure gate at the railway station to strengthen railway connectivity in Vijayapura district headquarters. A letter has also been written to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav in this regard, said Infrastructure Development and District In-charge Minister MB Patil.

Speaking about this, he said that a letter has also been written to Somanna regarding this issue. The goods shed that was earlier located in the premises of Vijayapura railway station has now been shifted to Aliabad. Hence, there is no shortage of space for establishing a coach depot. If a coach depot comes here, it can be developed as a maintenance hub.

KPCC chief asks why Ram Madhav met retired ISI officer in Colombo

BENGALURU

Karnataka Congress president B K Hariprasad on Wednesday questioned the reported meetings between BJP leader Ram Madhav and a retired Pakistani ISI Major General, alleging that the BJP and the RSS must explain the purpose of the interactions, particularly when Madhav is the party's in-charge for the upcoming GBA elections.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Hariprasad also accused the BJP of misrepresenting Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's remarks on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleged attempts to delete voters under the exercise, sought investigations into alleged temple donation box irregularities, and demanded a reduction in petrol and diesel prices in line with the fall in global crude oil prices.

"We are mentioning Ram Madhav because he is the BJP's

in-charge for the upcoming Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) elections in August.

What was the purpose of going to Colombo and talking to the ISI in the context of the GBA elections? Has the Ministry of External Affairs outsourced India's foreign policy to Ram Madhav? Has it been outsourced to the RSS?" Hariprasad asked.

Referring to media reports, he claimed that Ram Madhav had met a retired Pakistani ISI Major General in Colombo and alleged that a similar meeting had taken place in London two months after Operation Sindoor.

He demanded that Madhav must explain what the purpose was and alleged that the RSS and the BJP are turning the country's policy upside down.

In a post on 'X' on June 27, Madhav wrote, "Totally wrong portrayal. It was not a Track 2 dialogue. It was IISS annual South Asia Dialogue which was attended by scholars from India, Sri Lanka, US, UK, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Even officials attended this annual dialogue in the past. No track 2 is held with so many countries. I did not attend the 2-day dialogue. I was invited to speak at one session, which I did and left. Complete spin to a non-story".

On allegations relating to temple donation boxes, Hariprasad said warning boards would now have to caution devotees against theft of offerings.

"Now a new board will have to be put up saying, 'Protect the donation box too.

Karnataka moots online police complaint system

BENGALURU

Home Minister Priyank Kharge has instructed senior officials to introduce a system to receive complaints online and register 'zero FIRs', and preparations have begun at the departmental level in this regard.

The department aims to make the process of filing complaints easier for citizens, ensure accountability of the police in the registration of every complaint, and curb corruption at the complaint acceptance stage. There has been a lot of thou ght and discussion about the pros and cons of implementing this system.

The police register a First Information Report (FIR) based on the complaint of the victim regarding criminal acts. Then the investigation related to that act begins.

But if people go to the police stations, the police hesitate to accept the complaint, and there are allega-

tions that the FIR is registered only if they pay this much money, especially the rich, and there are allegations that they are given special hospitality. In this context, Home Minister Priyank Kharge has taken a new step towards making the complaint reception system 'people-friendly' and corruption-free.

State Director General of Police Dr MA Salim has prepared the necessary framework for this. It is learnt that the DGP has consulted IGP Labhooram of the State Police Computer Wing (PCW) in this regard.

Currently, there is a system to file a complaint online and receive an acknowledgement letter in response to some minor crimes such as theft of wallets, ATM cards, credit cards, documents and mobile phones.

If you file an e-Law complaint on the Karnataka Police website (KSP) or app, you can get an immediate acknowledgement. However, no FIR will be registered in this regard.

Now, information can be given online about sexual exploitation of women and children.

This system is being considered to be expanded further. That is, apart from serious crimes like murder and rape, complaints can be filed online about other crimes like house theft, extortion, etc.

Similarly, people can file complaints sitting on the KSP website or app. In this regard, the police of the concerned police station should immediately take legal action on that complaint. Then the police cannot refuse to accept the complaint. The police will have to respond to every complaint.

The complaint will have to be entered in the police station diary regarding the action taken on that complaint. Then the police will be the ones responsible for the complaint, said the officials.

The process of filing complaints regarding criminal acts will be made 'people-friendly'.

An online complaint acceptance system has been proposed. The types of acts for which the police can accept complaints and the legal provisions for this are being examined, said Dr MA Salim, State Director General of Police.

OPPN PARTIES FACE CHALLENGE

SIR puts parties to test as they struggle to find booth volunteers

BENGALURU

As Karnataka's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls gets underway, the battle is no longer just about voters. Political parties are racing to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLAs), the volunteers who help voters with the verification process and flag any discrepancies, but none of the three major parties has been able to cover all 58,546 polling booths.

The biggest challenge has come from local demographics. The BJP says it has appointed BLAs in around 51,000 booths but is yet to fill the remaining 9,000, many of them in Muslim dominated areas. While we have completed appointments for as many as 51,000 booths, in the rest 9,000 booths due to demographic challenges we have been unable to find volunteers. But we will complete the appointments shortly, said BJP state General Secretary and SIR Committee Convenor P Rajeev.

Party functionaries admitted that many of the uncovered booths are overwhelmingly Muslim dominated, where the BJP has little organisational

presence. The JD(S), with a more limited footprint, has appointed around 25,000 BLAs, concentrating on constituencies where it has an established support base. While we have covered South Karnataka completely, in north Karnataka we have concentrated our efforts in only those segments where we have a local base including present and former MLAs, said former MLC KA Thippeswamy.

The Congress, meanwhile, has taken a different approach. Instead of aiming for uniform coverage, it has deployed more workers in constituencies with sizeable minority populations amid concerns that eligible voters could face deletion during the revision. Depending upon the constituencies we have decided to deploy more party workers to assist, said Rajya Sabha MP GC Chandrashekar.

Election Commission data also reflects these contrasting strategies. The BJP has appointed the highest number of BLAs in Belagavi and Bengaluru, while the Congress has focused on BBMP Central and Mysuru, both of which have significant minority populations. For voters, the presence of a BLA can make the verification process easier by helping with documentation, correcting errors and ensuring genuine names are not left out of the electoral rolls.

Drive to clear footpath encroachment in city

BENGALURU

A massive drive has been laun ched to clear encroachments on footpaths in the city. On Wednesday, officials with JCB machines carried out an eviction drive in Ashoka Pillar and Jaya nagar areas. A drive has been launched to clear encroachme nts in four zones under the jurisdiction of Bengaluru Central Tax. During the operation, tea st alls parked unauthorised in front of the hotels were removed.

QUICK READ

Fire safety mock drill planned for industry workers

Chitradurga

A fire safety demonstration and mock drill will be held on July 2 at the Central Silver Plant in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission premises, Chitradurga industrial area. The programme will begin at 11 am and will teach workers how to respond during unexpected fire accidents. Officials will demonstrate fire control methods, safety measures, and the correct use of firefighting equipment. The District Fire Officer said the event aims to create awareness among industrial staff and help them understand safety steps needed to protect workers and property during emergencies. The session will provide practical training for better preparedness.

KRIMS ventilators remain safe and fully functional

Karwar

Adequate ventilators in good condition are available and functioning at KRIMS Hospital. There is no shortage of ventilators and officials confirmed that all machines are working properly. The hospital also has sufficient oxygen supply for patients. KRIMS Director said the equipment was purchased through a government tender at a cost of Rs. 24.62 crore and supplied to the hospital. The machines were checked by experts and department heads before use. Officials stated that the medical equipment is safe and functioning well. The hospital assured patients that necessary facilities are available and care services will continue without problems.

Workshop to guide rehabilitation workers on schemes

Udupi

A one-day information workshop for rural and urban rehabilitation workers of Karkala taluk will be held on July 3 at the Karkala Taluk Panchayat. The workshop, starting at 10 am, will provide details about schemes offered by the Department of Disabled Persons and services available at the District Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Persons. Officials said the programme aims to help rehabilitation workers understand available facilities and support systems better. The District Rehabilitation Centre office informed that the session will improve awareness and help workers provide better assistance to persons with disabilities in rural and urban areas.

Raw bomb supplier arrested in car blast case

Authorities secured the recovered bomb, conducted controlled disposal, and sent collected remains for forensic examination in Shira city

TUMAKURU

Police have arrested a person who allegedly supplied a raw bomb linked to the car explosion case on the Tumakuru-Shira highway. District Superintendent of Police Ashok K. V. said the investigation revealed that George Niklov Fernandes provided the explosive material to Nagendra, who died in the incident.

The explosion occurred on June 27 and police confirmed the use of a raw bomb during the investigation. A joint operation was carried out by the Tumakuru Special Investigation Team and Uttara Kannada district police, leading to the arrest of the accused from Chandavar village in Honnavar.

Police officials said Fernandes had prepared and supplied raw bombs locally, mainly for fishing activities. The investigation also found that he had allegedly given similar materials to other local persons including Sandeep Gowda, Narayana Dollugowda and Nagaraju Dollugowda.

The accused became unwell during questioning and was admitted to Kumta Government Hospital by Ankola police for treatment. Further investigation will continue after his recovery, officials said.

The raw bomb recovered from the explosion site was secured by authorities. A forensic team later examined the material and carried out a controlled disposal in an isolated area of Shira city. The remains were collected and sent for further scientific examination.

Police have formed special teams to trace the source of the explosive material and identify everyone connected to the case. DySP of Shira Sub-Division B.K. Shekhar and CPI D.G. Srinivas are leading the investigation with a team of officers.

The police said further details will be revealed after completing the ongoing investigation.

Authorities assured that strict action will be taken against those involved in the incident.

Rain shortfall: Farmers urged to adopt alternative crops

MANDYA

Dr. Kumar said delayed rains slowed sowing, urged alternative crops, and directed officials to prepare plans protecting farmers from drought-related losses

The district administration has advised farmers to adopt alternative crops and scientific farming methods as the monsoon rains have failed to meet expectations in Mandya district. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar stressed the need for creating awareness among farmers to prevent losses caused by irregular rainfall.

Speaking at a review meeting held at the District Collector's office on seed distribution and crop planning, Dr. Kumar said that sowing activities have been slow due to insufficient rains. He noted that only about five percent of the sowing target has been completed so far, while rainfall in the district is nearly 35 percent below normal.

He said farmers should be guided to choose short-duration and less water-consuming crop varieties when monsoon rains are delayed. The Agriculture Department has already suggested alternative crops such as millets, ragi, arka crops, buckwheat, linseed and sunflower instead of traditional paddy cultivation.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed agriculture officials to prepare a detailed alternative crop plan and submit a report within one week. He emphasized that timely planning is essential to protect farmers from financial losses during drought-like conditions.

He also directed that nodal scientists be appointed in all 31 hoblis of the district to conduct awareness programmes and hold regular meetings with farmers. These initiatives are expected to strengthen communication between farmers and experts at the field level.

Dr. Kumar further assured that there is no shortage of seeds or fertilizers in the district and sufficient stock is available to meet demand. He asked officials to create awareness through farmer contact centres and ensure that farmers are informed about suitable crops based on weather conditions.

Officials were also instructed to conduct taluk-level meetings to guide farmers on alternative farming practices and improve preparedness for uncertain monsoon conditions.

BACHENAHATTI TO GET KARNATAKA PUBLIC SCHOOL SOON

MAGADI

A new Karnataka Public School (KPS) will be started at Bachenahatti in Magadi taluk to strengthen government education and provide better learning opportunities for rural children, said Block Congress President K. Krishnamurthy.

Speaking after visiting Bachenahatti High School with education officials and local leaders, Krishnamurthy said MLA H.C. Balakrishna has given importance to improving the education system through group education projects in the taluk. He said KPS schools in Sankegatta, Thippasandra and Kudur are already functioning successfully.

He explained that more than 1,800 students are receiving quality education at Kudur and similar facilities will now be provided at Bachenahatti. The new school will offer classes from LKG to PUC under one roof, giving students access to better facilities near their homes.

To address teacher shortages and improve competition with private schools, 15 government schools under Bachenahatti Gram Panchayat will be merged. Schools in Maralagondanahalli and Kallur villages will remain separate due to higher student numbers. The combined system will provide quality group education to 166 students using available teaching resources.

Until a new building is constructed, classes from 6th to 10th standard will be conducted in the existing high school building, while lower classes will function in another Gram Panchayat building. Plans are also being made to include a PU college facility in the future.

Officials said a free transport system will be introduced for students travelling from nearby villages. Routes have already been planned to make travel easier without affecting school staff duties.

The school's former students have also supported the initiative by collecting funds and improving the appearance of the school building through painting and decoration.

Field Education Officer Rajegowda said three KPS schools are already active in the taluk and the remaining approved schools, including Bachenahatti, will begin operations this year. Teachers have received training to teach in both Kannada and English mediums.

Former representatives and community members said the new school would help poor and middle-class children receive quality education free of cost.

The initiative is expected to bring modern learning facilities to rural areas and help students compete at wider levels in the future.

Guarantee officials asked to support voter revision work

CHITRADURGA

District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority Chairman R. Shivanna Ganjigatte has appealed to all Guarantee Committee office bearers to actively participate in the Comprehensive Revision of Voter List process.

He said district and taluk-level chairmen, vice-chairmen and members should coordinate with BLO-2 officials in their respective areas and help complete the SIR-2026 process effectively. He stressed that special attention should be given to including all eligible new voters in the voter list.

Shivanna said office bearers have the responsibility of ensuring proper implementation of government guarantee schemes while also supporting the voter revision work. He asked them to maintain regular contact with BLOs and local leaders to avoid mistakes during the process.

He added that, as per the directions of the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and district MLAs, officials should work carefully to ensure benefits reach eligible citizens. He also warned that people whose names are missing from the voter list may face difficulties in receiving guarantee scheme benefits and other government facilities.

The chairman urged committee members to create awareness among beneficiaries and encourage them to verify their voter details.

Haveri leaders urge citizens to protect voting rights

HAVERI

Assembly Speaker and MLA Rudrappa Lamani said voting is a fundamental right of every citizen and urged eligible people to ensure their names are included in the voter list during the special comprehensive revision process.

Speaking at a meeting of BLA-2 representatives of Haveri Assembly constituency held at the tourist center, he said the revision process will continue until the end of this month. He asked workers to help Dalits, daily wage workers and other eligible citizens complete the required procedures without errors.

Lamani said voter cards represent a citizen's identity and existence, and no eligible person should be left out of the list.

Chitradurga records steady progress in SIR voter verification drive

CHITRADURGA

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of electoral rolls is progressing steadily in Chitradurga district, with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) carrying out house-to-house visits to distribute enumeration forms to voters.

The exercise, launched on June 30 under the directions of the Election Commission of India, will continue until July 29. As of July 1, officials had distributed 1,64,428 enumeration forms across the district, which has 1,661 polling stations and 14.40 lakh registered voters.

District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh on Wednesday visited Bommalinganahalli, Molakalmuru and Challakere taluks to review the progress of the verification drive and inspect the distribution of forms.

According to official data, the district has identified 14,809 deceased voters, 58 permanently shifted voters, 39 duplicate entries and 10 absent voters during the ongoing revision process. Officials said the exercise aims to ensure that the electoral rolls remain accurate and updated ahead of future elections.

Journalists pay tribute to reporter Ishwar in Pavagada

PAVAGADA

The Pavagada Taluk Press Association organized a condolence meeting following the sudden demise of Tumkur newspaper reporter Ishwar. Journalists gathered and paid emotional tributes by offering flowers to his portrait.

Speaking on the occasion, Working Journalists Association District Director and Taluk In-charge Dodderi Kanimayya said Ishwar was an active, honest and dedicated journalist. He worked continuously to highlight public issues and bring the concerns of ordinary people before the authorities through his reports.

He said Ishwar always played an important role in journalist organizations and his death is a major loss to the media community. His commitment and contribution to journalism will be remembered, he added.

Journalist Satya Lokesh said he was deeply saddened by Ishwar's passing. He described him as a responsible reporter who covered issues with accuracy and sincerity. He said Ishwar had a strong concern for society and always worked for the welfare of people.

Journalist Ramanjinappa shared his memories of Ishwar and said he had known him since his days working at Prajapragathi newspaper. He remembered Ishwar as a kind, humble and friendly person who treated everyone with respect.

He said Ishwar considered journalism not just a profession but a service to society. His absence has created a big gap among colleagues and friends.

GREEN-OFFICE-INITIATIVE

Karwar office adopts solar power for savings

KARWAR

The Uttara Kannada District Social Forestry Division Office has become a model for renewable energy use by installing a solar rooftop system and reducing its electricity expenses significantly. The initiative has helped the government office move towards clean energy while also creating additional income through electricity generation.

A 5 kW solar rooftop net metering system was installed at the Karwar office at a cost of Rs. 4.20 lakh. The system became operational in April 2026 and now produces an average of 600 units of electricity every month. During summer, daily production reached nearly 29.5 units, while rainy season generation continues at around 6 units per day.

Before the solar installation, the office paid around Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 every month for electricity. After the project, the monthly electricity expense has reduced to about Rs. 1,000, saving more than 80 percent of the cost.

The extra electricity produced after meeting office requirements is supplied to the local power grid. HESCOM pays the department Rs. 3.08 per unit for the additional electricity supplied. Already, 292 units of surplus power have been sold.

Deputy Conservator of Forests Manjunath Navi said the project shows how government buildings can successfully adopt eco-friendly technology. He explained that solar panels on office rooftops can reduce government spending and help control environmental pollution.

The idea was encouraged during a district meeting where officials suggested generating solar power from government buildings. Following this, the Social Forestry Department office installed the rooftop plant with support from the administration.

Hi-Tech Hospital To Begin Public Service Soon

HUNSUR

The newly constructed Hi-Tech Hospital on Hunsur Nagar Bypass Road has reached its final stage and will be handed over within two months for public service, District Nodal Officer Dr. Mallika said.

During a review visit related to the Pulse Polio Program, Dr. Mallika met health officials and discussed the progress of the hospital project. City Public Hospital Superintendent Dr. Shivshankar requested the concerned department to complete the remaining work quickly so that the hospital could be shifted to the new building.

Dr. Mallika said the final construction work, completed with a grant of Rs. 9 crore, is expected to finish soon. After receiving necessary approvals, the facility will be handed over for use. She also said the bypass road work is underway and the issue will be brought to the attention of the MLA for early completion.

The nodal officer appreciated the taluk's achievement of 99.90 percent success in the Pulse Polio Campaign. She also reviewed patient-related issues and hospital facilities.

An emergency vehicle donated by HPCL was provided to Hunsur Public Hospital, taking the total number of available vehicles to four.

QUICK READ

Students honour doctors during National Day celebration

Hunsur

Talent Education Institute students visited the city public hospital during National Doctors' Day and honoured doctors on duty. They distributed fruits, hampers and bread to patients, making the celebration meaningful. Students appreciated doctors' service and learned about their important role in society. Hospital officials including Dr. Satish, Dr. Sujatha, Dr. Sujitha and Dr. V. Ravikumar attended the programme. Teachers and over a hundred students participated. Doctors and staff praised the institute's social service and efforts. The event highlighted respect for healthcare workers and encouraged young people to support community welfare activities with kindness and great enthusiasm.

Mahiboob Jeelan takes charge as Koppal Sub-Divisional Officer

Koppal

Mahiboob Jeelan has officially assumed charge as the Koppal Sub-Divisional Officer following a government notification. He took over the position on June 25. The Sub-Divisional Officer's office informed that all government, semi-government, and other official letters requiring the officer's attention should now be sent to Mahiboob Jeelan at the Koppal Sub-Divisional Office. Officials shared the office contact details for communication with the new officer. The appointment is expected to strengthen administrative work in the subdivision and ensure smooth public services. The department welcomed the new officer and wished him success in his responsibilities.

Farmers must submit declaration for crop insurance

Gadag

Farmers registering under the Raitha Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for the 2026-27 monsoon season have been asked to submit a self-declaration. The Agriculture Department said loan-free farmers must confirm that they have not received Kisan Credit Card or agricultural loans from banks for the insured crops.

Five arrested with stolen gold and weapons

TUMAKURU

The Tumakuru police have arrested a group accused of robbing motorists on roads and stealing valuables from temples across the district. They seized twenty-five gold thalis weighing eighty-six grams and other ornaments. The arrested accused included people from Hassan, Mandya and Ramanagara districts.Police said the suspects were caught near Jodugatte village in Turuvekere taluk while allegedly preparing to commit another robbery. Weapons and stolen items were recovered during the investigation.Officials said the gang had stolen from twenty-two temples and collected property worth lakhs. Superintendent of Police Ashok K.V. said cases were registered and further inquiry is ongoing.

Over 1.31 lakh students join anti-drug pledge drive

Dr. Heggade urged youth to practice discipline and self-control, warning that addiction harms individuals, families, and society

BELTHANGADY

In a major statewide initiative, more than 1.31 lakh students from 1,281 schools and colleges across Karnataka participated in the online "Swasthya Sankalpa" programme aimed at creating awareness against substance abuse on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse.

The programme was organised by Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Grama Abhivruddhi Yojane and Akhila Karnataka Janajagruti Vedike and was simultaneously conducted across educational institutions. The central event, hosted at the organisation's main office, was inaugurated by Dharmadhikari Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Heggade highlighted the importance of discipline and self-control among youth. He said that while human senses are naturally drawn towards temptations, it is essential to exercise restraint to lead a meaningful life. He cautioned that addiction not only destroys individual futures but also harms families and society, and urged students to remain vigilant and committed to positive values.

Hemavati V. Heggade emphasized the need for sustained efforts to build an addiction-free society and said that the Janajagruti Vedike has been working as a social movement to promote awareness. She encouraged young people to become role models and spread awareness about healthy living and moral values.

Renowned cardiac surgeon Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty, who participated as a resource person, urged students to use their potential constructively for nation-building. He advised them to engage in service-oriented activities and avoid falling into harmful habits that can derail their future.Senior police officer Dr. H.N. Venkatesh Prasanna delivered a detailed presentation on the dangers of drug abuse, legal consequences, and its wider social impact. He also highlighted preventive measures and the importance of community participation in tackling the issue.

Organisers noted that the Janajagruti Vedike has conducted over 24,500 awareness programmes so far, reaching nearly 21 lakh students, supported by around 1,300 trained resource persons.

The event witnessed participation from several officials and dignitaries, and concluded with a collective pledge by students to stay away from drugs and lead disciplined, healthy lives.

Sunil Kumar Bajal said MCC Commissioner must follow legal frameworks, criticising decisions allegedly made without proper scrutiny

CITU threatens agitation over MCC street vendor raids

MANGALURU

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) has warned of intensifying its protest if the Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) continues eviction drives against street vendors without providing alternative rehabilitation measures.

A large organisational meeting was held at AKG Bhavan in Bolar under the leadership of the Dakshina Kannada District Street Vendors Association affiliated to CITU. The meeting focused on safeguarding the livelihood rights of street vendors and opposing what the union termed as "unilateral and illegal" enforcement actions by the civic body.

CITU Dakshina Kannada District General Secretary Sunil Kumar Bajal, inaugurating the meeting, stated that the MCC Commissioner must function strictly within constitutional and legal frameworks. He criticised the corporation for allegedly taking decisions without proper legal scrutiny and called such actions unacceptable.

Honorary President B.K. Imtiyaz strongly objected to the use of bulldozers against street vendors, stating that such measures were against the welfare-oriented governance model expected in Karnataka. He questioned the state government's silence and warned that continued enforcement actions without rehabilitation would lead to intensified protests.

Several leaders, including Sikandar Beg, Vijay Jain, Shivanand, Jyothi Bai, Nagaraj, and Lakkamma, addressed the gathering, expressing solidarity with the vendors and condemning eviction drives. They alleged that repeated raids were disrupting the livelihoods of economically vulnerable families dependent on street vending.

The meeting also passed a series of resolutions demanding that all MCC eviction operations, including Sunday bazaar actions, be halted until proper rehabilitation arrangements are made. It called for the formation of a Town Vending Committee under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, along with a proper survey and issuance of identity cards and certificates to vendors.

Officials told to act against begging and child marriage

HOSAPETE

Ballari Principal District and Sessions Judge K.M. Rajashekar directed officials to take strict action against child begging and child marriage cases during the district-level monthly progress review meeting held at the district court.

Speaking at the meeting, the judge instructed officials to immediately rescue children found begging on roads, junctions and religious places. He said such children should be shifted to safe care centres and children's homes to protect their future.

The judge said police officials and the Women and Child Development Department must work together whenever children are involved in begging activities. He also appealed to citizens to share information about such cases through the child helpline 1098 or emergency number 112.

Expressing concern over increasing cases of child marriage and POCSO-related incidents in rural areas, Rajashekar stressed the need for joint efforts by police, education officials and child welfare departments. He said awareness programmes should be conducted regularly to prevent such social issues.

The judge also directed authorities to identify school dropouts through house-to-house surveys and help them return to education. He emphasized that girls' education should receive special attention to build a safer and stronger society.

During the meeting, officials discussed public complaints related to delays in land surveys, land acquisition and settlement matters. The judge instructed revenue officials to resolve these issues at the local level and prevent unnecessary disputes from reaching courts.

He also highlighted the upcoming National Lok Adalat scheduled for July 11. The event aims to settle more than 4,000 civil, criminal and compromise cases. He encouraged citizens to use the opportunity to resolve disputes quickly through legal procedures.

Several senior officials attended the meeting, including Additional District and Sessions Judge B.T. Kumaraswamy, District Legal Services Authority representatives, police officers, social welfare officials and local administration members.The meeting concluded with a call for better coordination among departments to protect children, improve public services and ensure quick justice for citizens. Officials said collective action and public support are essential to address social problems effectively and create a safer environment for everyone in the district.

Namratha Mohan urges balance between passion and profession

MOODBIDRI

Spiritual content creator Namratha Mohan, popularly known as 'Temple Girl', has urged students to maintain a healthy balance between profession and personal passion to achieve true and lasting success.

She was speaking at a special lecture organised by the Rostrum Speakers Club of Alva's Education Foundation under the Belandigala Chintana series in Moodbidri. Addressing students, she shared her personal journey from corporate careers to digital content creation focused on temples and Indian spiritual heritage.

Namratha Mohan recounted her early struggles, noting that she cleared job interviews after 19 attempts before working with major firms such as JP Morgan, Citi Bank, and Walt Disney.

Despite a successful corporate career, she and her husband later chose to leave their jobs to pursue content creation without any formal background in video production.

Master plan panel meet soon at Kukke Temple

SUBRAHMANYA

A Master Plan Committee meeting will be convened soon to initiate development works worth ₹604 crore at the Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple to enhance facilities for devotees, said State Religious Endowment Commissioner Sharat B during his visit to the shrine.

The commissioner stated that several major infrastructure projects, including a circumambulatory pathway (suttupowli), dormitory facilities, and construction of 1,000-room accommodation blocks, will be taken up under the comprehensive development plan. He assured that the works would begin shortly and be completed in a time-bound manner to benefit pilgrims visiting the temple.

Sharat B made the announcement after holding a series of meetings with the temple administration and Public Works Department officials at the temple premises. He also reviewed ongoing discussions regarding various development needs, including Ashlesha Bali mandapa, staff quarters, salary structures, recruitment of additional staff, and remuneration for ritual priests performing sevas at the temple.

He noted that all these aspects would be addressed systematically and confirmed that the Master Plan Committee meeting would be held soon to approve and accelerate the execution of pending works.

During his visit, the commissioner was accompanied by temple management committee members, executive officers, engineers, and advisory board members. He also inspected key locations identified for new constructions, including the proposed dormitory complex and staff residential quarters.Officials briefed him on the urgent infrastructure requirements aimed at improving facilities for the increasing number of devotees. The administration stressed the need for better accommodation, improved queue management systems, and enhanced service facilities at the temple.The commissioner also reviewed the architectural blueprint of the proposed circumambulatory pathway and examined the planned development areas on site.Temple authorities expressed confidence that the proposed ₹604 crore master plan will significantly upgrade pilgrim amenities and streamline temple operations once implemented.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHAMMED IBRAHIM** S/o CHAND PASHA aged 40 years, residing at NO 8, FLAT NO 502, 24TH MAIN ROAD, SECTOR 2 HSR LAYOUT, BENGALURU-560102, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MOHAMMED IBRAHEEM** TO MOHAMMED IBRAHIM , henceforth, and I shall be known and called as MOHAMMED IBRAHIM, for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 01ST JULY 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary R VISHWANATH at Bangalore.

NAME CHANGE

I, **VAZEER AHMED ,** S/o, Mohammed Usman Tholalu, Resident of Rose Wood Estate Kollahalli Sakleshpura Taluk Hassan Dist 573134, have changed my name to **VAZEER AHAMMED ,** vide affidavit dated: 01.07.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **BADRUNNISA SYEDA ,** W/o, Hafeez Khan, Resident of No 3655,Ward No 11 Ghousia Mohalla BesideGhousia Masjid Ramanagar Dist,562159, have changed my name to **BADRUNNISA ,** vide affidavit dated: 01.07.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **CHANDRIKA S,** Aged 34 Years, D/o Shankar B, Resident at No.2, 2nd Cross, S R Nagar, Bengaluru South, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru-560027, have changed my name to **KHADIJA FATIMA,** vide affidavit dated: 27.10.2025 before notary ARUNA.V, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **HAFIZ KHAN ,** S/o, Latif Khan, Resident of No 3655, Ward No 11 Ghousia Mohalla BesideGhousia Masjid Ramanagar Dist,562159, have changed my name to **HAFEEZ KHAN ,** vide affidavit dated: 01.07.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.Mis No. 808/2025
Petitioner: Puttahanumaiah, S/o Late. Hanumaramaiah, Aged about 65 years, R/ at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur taluk
And: Respondent: The Tahsildar Doddaballapur
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whether the petitioner has field the above petition under Section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Death act. 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his father, by name Gopakka W/o Puttahanumaiah who died on 20-09-1952 at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before this Hon'ble court on 30-07-2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 30th day of June 2026,
By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer Pri Civil judge & Doddaballapura
B.S.Krishnamurthy, N.Lalitha, Advodates, Opposite court complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur,

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.Mis No. 800/2025
Petitioner: Narasimhamurthy.D.M, S/o Muddhayya, Aged about 42 years, R/ at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur taluk
And: Respondent: The Tahsildar Doddaballapur
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whether the petitioner has field the above petition under Section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Death act. 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his Uncle, by name Kalluveeraiah S/o Puttarangaiah who died on 04-10-1994 at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before this Hon'ble court on 30.07.2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 30th day of June 2026.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
B.S.Krishnamurthy, N.Lalitha
Opposite court complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur,

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.Mis No. 804/2025
Petitioner: Puttahanumaiah, S/o Late. Hanumaramaiah, Aged about 65 years, R/ at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur taluk
And: Respondent: The Tahsildar Doddaballapur
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whether the petitioner has field the above petition under Section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Death act. 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his Great Grandfather, by name Nanjappa who died on 15-04-1930 at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before this Hon'ble court on 30-07-2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 30th day of June 2026,
By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer Pri Civil judge & Doddaballapura
B.S.Krishnamurthy, N.Lalitha, Advodates, Opposite court complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur,

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.Mis No. 807/2025
Petitioner: Puttahanumaiah, S/o Late. Hanumaramaiah, Aged about 65 years, R/ at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur taluk
And: Respondent: The Tahsildar Doddaballapur
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whether the petitioner has field the above petition under Section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Death act. 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his father, by name Puttahanumaiah S/o Nanjappa who died on 14-08-1938 at Dadaghattamadagu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before this Hon'ble court on 30-07-2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 30th day of June 2026,
By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer Pri Civil judge & Doddaballapura
B.S.Krishnamurthy, N.Lalitha, Advodates, Opposite court complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur,

CHANGE OF NAME
I , **Prabhakar Kanshettappa Pillanna** R/o #524, WardNo. 10, Nagartha Pete, Chickballapur, I have been changed my name from **Prabhakar Kanshettappa Pillanna** to **Prabhakar** before notary SREEDEVI B R, dated: 29th june 2026 at Chickballapur.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Prameela** W/o Prabhakar R/o #524, WardNo. 10, Nagartha Pete, Chickballapur, I have been changed my name from **Pramila Prabhakar to Pramila** before notary **SREEDEVI B R**, dated: 29th june 2026 at Chickballapur

LOST OF DOCUMENTS
I, R. Rajesh S/o Renukaradhya, residing at No. 15 Dargajogihalli (towards Nagasandra Road), Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, hereby inform to the public that,
I have purchased the property measuring 30x35 feet, In Survey No. 58/5, 6.27 acres, Khatha No.: 2291, Site No.: 35, 30x35 registered in the name of R. Rajesh, Doddaballapur Sub-Registration Office, Book 1, Volume 12, Pages 55 to 57, Registration No.: DBPD 225, belonging to the village, Dargajogihalli, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, purchased from D. Kumar.
The said original purchase deed was accidentally lost While going to the Bus stand by auto from Shantinagar on: 28.05.2026. If anyone found this original purchase document please deliver it to the above address or inform to Mobile. No: 9886024088.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

QUICK READ

Bengal cops reshuffle: 15 senior officers transferred

KOLKATA

The West Bengal government announced a major reshuffle within the state police department, transferring 15 senior officers, including personnel from the Indian Police Service (IPS) and West Bengal Police Service (WBPS). The state secretariat at Nabanna issued the notification, which includes various promotions and new duty assignments. Key changes include Anjan Chakraborty moving to the State Forensic Science Laboratory as IGP, and Sumanjit Roy taking charge as the IGP of the Intelligence Branch (Border). Meanwhile, Rashid Munir Khan has been promoted and appointed as IGP (Headquarters).

Fake enforcement directorate agent arrested

AHMEDABAD

The Ahmedabad Crime Branch has arrested Vijaykumar Patel for allegedly swindling 3.18 crore rupees from an Angadia firm. Patel, an Overseas Citizen of India, falsely claimed he had high-level connections within the ED and CBI to help the firm recover seized cash. After receiving payments in several installments, he failed to deliver results, leading the victims to file a formal complaint. Investigations revealed that Patel, previously jailed for a 120-crore rupee scam in Lucknow, used this deceptive influence to target others. Authorities are now searching for three co-accused as they investigate this extensive criminal network.

Govt may question WhatsApp username feature

NEW DELHI

The Indian government is reportedly planning to issue a formal notice to WhatsApp regarding its upcoming username feature. Officials fear the update, which allows users to interact without sharing phone numbers, could be exploited for impersonation, fraud, and misinformation.

While Meta claims the move enhances privacy, security experts warn that without strict safeguards, it may undermine current telecom rules requiring mobile number verification. With the Department of Telecommunications emphasizing SIM-binding to fight digital crime, authorities are demanding that WhatsApp prove its safety measures can prevent mass abuse before the feature rolls out further.

Cabinet clears Kanpur-Kabrai Greenfield highway project

The Rs 7,145-crore highway, once ready, to slash travel time to just one and a half hours, allowing vehicles to cruise safely at speeds between 80 and 100 km per hour

NEW DELHI

Travel between Kanpur and Kabrai is set to become much faster and easier. The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has officially approved a major new highway project.

This massive infrastructure plan will see the construction of a 117.7-kilometer, four-lane "greenfield" highway designed to link these two important regions seamlessly.

The project comes with a budget of over Rs 7,145 crore. Once completed, this modern road will be a game-changer for commuters and businesses alike. Currently, a trip between Kanpur and Kabrai takes about three and a half hours. The new high-speed corridor is expected to slash that travel time to just one and a half hours, allowing vehicles to cruise safely at speeds between 80 and 100 kilometers per hour.

Beyond just saving time, this highway is vital for the economy. By connecting industrial hubs in Uttar Pradesh with the resource-rich regions of Madhya Pradesh, it will make transporting minerals, farm produce, and industrial goods much more efficient. It also links directly with other key roads, such as the Bundelkhand Expressway.

The project is also a huge win for local workers. It is expected to create millions of days of new jobs during its construction phase. By boosting logistics and supporting regional growth, this new highway represents a significant step forward for the development of the entire Bundelkhand region. It is a clear commitment to making travel safer, cheaper, and faster for everyone living and working in the area.

Japanese PM Takaichi visits India for summit

NEW DELHI

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi arrived in India for the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit, marking her first official visit since taking office. Her three-day trip aims to deepen the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" between the two nations during a period of significant global instability.

Before leaving Tokyo, Takaichi emphasized that Japan's collaboration with India is more vital than ever. She is accompanied by a massive delegation of over 150 business leaders, reflecting a strong push to boost trade, innovation, and economic security through public-private partnerships. The visit centers on realizing a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, building upon agreements made during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan last August.

Takaichi will receive a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan tomorrow morning before heading into formal talks with Prime Minister Modi. The two leaders are scheduled to review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, with a heavy focus on energy, economic growth, and regional security. This summit is seen as a key opportunity to align India's "Act East" policy and the SAGAR vision with Japan's own Indo-Pacific strategy.

Having recently met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France, both leaders have already signaled their intent to prioritize trade and investment. This high-level dialogue serves as a testament to the long-standing spiritual and cultural ties between the nations, aiming to solidify a robust partnership that ensures stability across the Indo-Pacific region for the next decade.

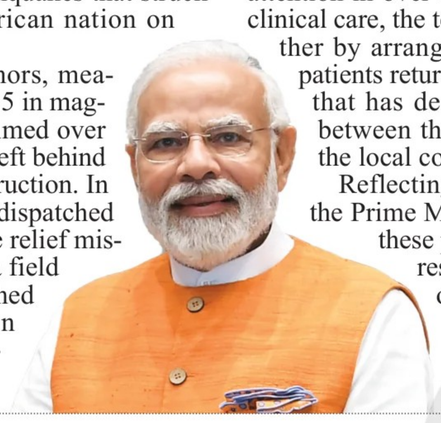
Modi hails Indian team aiding Venezuela

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded Indian medical professionals currently serving in Venezuela as "shining examples" of dedication and service.

His praise came on National Doctors' Day, highlighting the tireless work of the team deployed under "Operation Amistad" following two devastating earthquakes that struck the South American nation on June 24.

The twin tremors, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude, have claimed over 1,400 lives and left behind widespread destruction. In response, India dispatched a comprehensive relief mission, including a field hospital established by the Indian Army, which began operations on June 28. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed that the unit, equipped with vital medicines and specialized gear, is actively bolstering local recovery efforts.



Patients at the field hospital have expressed profound appreciation for the care provided. One local resident, who received treatment for her injuries, remarked that she had not experienced such dedicated medical attention in over 60 years. Beyond clinical care, the team has gone further by arranging transport for patients returning home, an act that has deepened the bond between the responders and the local community.

Reflecting on the mission, the Prime Minister noted that these professionals represent the very best of India's commitment to helping others during global crises.

Odisha govt orders probe over school textbook errors

BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha School and Mass Education Department has pledged to resolve errors recently discovered in new textbooks for Classes I through VIII.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary N Thirumala Naik announced that the government is taking urgent steps to provide students with accurate, updated study materials as quickly as possible.

Following public feedback regarding inaccuracies, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi ordered a formal inquiry. A committee led by the Development Commissioner has since investigated the lapses, identified the officials responsible, and initiated appropriate disciplinary action. To ensure learning remains uninterrupted, the department is distributing correction sheets to teachers while simultaneously finalizing plans to print and circulate fully revised editions.

Officials are also collaborating with subject experts to conduct a comprehensive review of all current texts. Corrected content will be made available on the department's official website, inviting teachers and the public to provide further feedback to guarantee total accuracy in the final print.

Addressing recent controversy regarding the inclusion of the popular Bollywood song "Nimbuda Nimbuda" in a school textbook, Naik clarified the pedagogical intent. He explained that the lesson is part of a music education module designed to show how traditional Indian folk songs are adapted and popularized by contemporary artists. He emphasized that the reference is strictly for cross-cultural educational purposes, intended to illustrate how regional music traditions gain wider recognition, and should not be misinterpreted. The government remains committed to refining these resources to uphold educational standards.

Manipur CM strengthens anti-drug fight with NCB

IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh has reaffirmed his government's unwavering commitment to dismantling drug trafficking networks, following a high-level meeting with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

The discussions, held with NCB Deputy Director General R. Sudhakar, focused on enhancing intelligence sharing and tightening enforcement of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Manipur, like neighboring Mizoram, faces unique security challenges due to its extensive, unfenced border with Myanmar. This proximity to the "Golden Triangle" a notorious global hub for illicit narcotics has made five districts, including Churachandpur and Tengnoupal, highly susceptible to cross-border smuggling. Smugglers frequently exploit these porous frontiers to transport narcotics into India.

Unregulated IVF centers face Maha govt crackdown

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has launched a major statewide crackdown on unauthorized sonography and In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) centers to combat illegal sex determination and medical malpractice.

Public Health Minister Prakash Abitkar announced in the State Assembly that the government intends to invoke the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against violators, marking a significant escalation in enforcement efforts.

The initiative follows rising concerns from lawmakers regarding the surge in unregulated fertility clinics. Minister Abitkar highlighted a troubling trend of unnecessary IVF procedures and avoidable C-section deliveries.

He affirmed a "zero-tolerance" policy, stating that new legal measures will target anyone involved in oocyte trafficking, IVF malpractice, and violations of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, including doctors and hospital administrators.

Recent actions have already yielded results, with arrests made following the exposure of an illegal human egg-trafficking ring in Badlapur and Ambernath.

The health department has moved to permanently revoke the licenses of the doctors involved. Furthermore, authorities have suspended operations at the 'Babysure Clinic' and 'Indira IVF Centre' in Chandrapur after discovering significant operational irregularities.

Specialized state-level task forces are now conducting surprise raids across the region to ensure strict compliance.

In a move to improve access to ethical healthcare, the government is also considering including legitimate IVF services under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya scheme, ensuring that those in need can receive reliable, regulated care without facing the risks of the black market.

HC grants bail to TMC leader Majumdar

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court has granted interim bail to Trinamool Congress leader Jay Prakash Majumdar, allowing for his release from judicial custody after nearly a month. Majumdar had been arrested on June 3 following allegations of forcibly occupying a flat in the Phoolbagan area for over a decade.

The legal proceedings saw a brief delay when Justice Tirthankar Ghosh withdrew from the case on June 29 for personal reasons.

The bail application was subsequently moved to the bench of Justice Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, who approved the request. However, the court imposed strict conditions - Majumdar is prohibited from entering the Phoolbagan police station area, must appear at the local station at scheduled times, and is required to cooperate fully with the ongoing investigation.

Majumdar's arrest followed long-standing tensions in the neighborhood. Residents and the flat's owner alleged that the leader leveraged his political influence to remain in the property long after his 2012 rental contract expired in 2015. Victims claimed that previous attempts to seek police intervention during the Trinamool's tenure went ignored.

The situation reached a breaking point on June 3 when locals protested outside his home.

Allegations surfaced that Majumdar assaulted protesters, prompting police intervention and his subsequent arrest on charges of forcible occupation, harassment, and threatening the elderly landlady.

As he leaves custody, the conditions set by the court aim to prevent further intimidation while the investigation into his alleged abuse of power continues.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT RAMANAGARA.
OS NO. 92 of 2025
BETWEEN: Syeda Haneen Sakhib, Aged about 22 years, Daughter of Syed Sakib Ur Rehman, Residing at ward No. 14, Town Police Station Road, Under ground building, Ramanagara Town. .....PLAINTIFF.
-AND-
The Head Mistress, St. Michel's English school & others ....DEFENDANTS. Defendant No.3: The Secretary, Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, Pragati House, 3rd Floor, 47-48, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019. ..DEFENDANT NO. 3
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO. 3
The plaintiff has filed this suit for declaration of her father's name as Syed Sakib Ur Rehman, and for mandatory injunction directing the defendants to effect necessary changes relating to her father's name in the academic records.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court personally or through your counsel on 03-08-2026 at 11-00 A.M. to answer the issues in the suit. Failing which the matter will be proceeded in your absence and decided exparte.
By order and Seal of Court,
Sd/- Sherasthedar, Additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Ramanagara.
Advocate For Plaintiff:
Sd/- K.M. Amarnath, Advocate, Ramanagara.

RAMANAGARA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Kengal Hanumanthaiah Abhivrudhi Bhavan, B.M. Road, Ramanagara
Bengaluru South Dist.-562159, Ph: 080-27276616 e-mail: ruda.me@gmail.com
No: RUDA/E-Procurement/Tender Notification/96/2026-27 Date : 30.06.2026
Tender Notification
(Through KPPP portal only)
As per Karnataka tender transperancey 1999-2000 act 2000 rule accordingly tender has been invited under signed officer through KPPP as per Standard tender document. Eligible contractors registered in public work department can participate for the work tender called through kppp portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Maximum Amount of **Rs. 298.00 Lakhs**. EMD Amount is **Rs. 2.28 Lakhs.** Eligible Bidders can upload through kppp portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** within dated: **15.07.2026 upto 4:00 PM** as informed all the required document to be submitted. For more information contact engineering section of RUDA.
Sd/- Commissioner
Ramanagar Urban Development Authority
Bengaluru South Dist.
DIPR/BSD/147/SA/2026-27

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
No:BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/T-105/2026-27 Date: 01.07.2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)
Tender is invited for Housing Project work by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT257)
Tender Schedule is as below.
Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **01.07.2026 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid enquiries: **03.07.2026, 11.00 A.M. (3)** Date and time of tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **04.07.2026, 3.00 P.M. (4)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **30.07.2026, 4.00 P.M. (5)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **31.07.2026 after 4.30 P.M.**
Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours.
Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok
Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division, BDA, Bengaluru

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22112809
ಸಂ.ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ವಿ)/ಲೋ.ಇ/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/2026-27/606 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.07.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು **KW-1 STD** ಷರತ್ತುಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	Providing the Street light in the work of Widening and Improvement work to road of Challakere (NH-150A) to Vishwanathanahalli Road (State Highway-243) from Km 76.10 to 76.485 in Challakere Taluk PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT35581.	ರೂ. 18.57 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು
2	Providing the Street light in the Work of Widening and Improvement work to road at Km 330.10 link road (Loop Road) of Kumata-Kadamadagi Road (SH-48) in Challakere Taluk PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT35574.	ರೂ. 9.82 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.06.2026 ರಿಂದ 14.07.2026 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.07.2026 ರಂದೆ 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ).
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿ-ಸಿ.ಪಿ/1420/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division,
P.U. Building, 9h Floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
No: EE/SN/TEND/06/2026-27 Dated: 01-07-2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
The Executive Engineer (Shanthinagar), BCCC invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP/KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any state Govt. Organization for the construction of works detailed in the Table below.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	Emergency works In Preparation of Ground for Celebration of Indepedence Day 15-08-2026 at Manikshaw Parade Ground and Other Allied Works in ward no 25, Ashoknagara. **Approx. Value of Work :** Rs. 30.00 Lakhs. **EMD Amount :** Rs. 75000.00

Calendar of events: (1) The Tender Notification along with Blank Tender Form will be accessible in the website of GOK **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Platform. **(2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **06-07-2026 at 03.30 PM** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, 9th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bengaluru-560001 to Clarify the issue and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Instructions to Bidders of the bidding document. **(3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **09-07-2026 upto 04.00 p.m. (4)** Date of Opening of the Technical Bid Tenders is on **10-07-2026 after 04.30 P.M.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shanthinagara Division
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

QUICK READ

Vance calls Vatican's immigration stance troubling

Washington

U.S. Vice President JD Vance has publicly criticized the Vatican's position on immigration, labeling it "troubling." This disagreement follows ongoing friction between the Trump administration and Pope Leo XIV, the first American pope. Pope Leo has frequently condemned the White House's strict deportation policies, calling them inhumane. According to reports, Vance, who is Catholic, urged church leaders to consider the negative impacts of mass migration. While the administration claims its hardline approach is necessary for national security, the Pope continues to challenge their policies, also criticizing U.S. involvement in recent global conflicts.

France sets dates for 2027 presidential election

Paris

The French government has officially confirmed the dates for the upcoming 2027 presidential election. Government spokesperson Maud Bregeon announced that the first round of voting will take place on April 18, 2027, with a decisive runoff scheduled for May 2, 2027. The election will determine the successor to President Emmanuel Macron, who is ineligible to run for a third consecutive term. As the country prepares for a fragmented race, polls currently show the far-right National Rally in a leading position, fueling expectations of a contest dominated by political extremes.

NEPAL COURT QUESTIONS CHINESE AIRCRAFT DEAL

Nepal's SS has demanded an explanation over a controversial, decade-old Chinese aircraft deal causing massive financial losses

KATHMANDU

Nepal's government is under intense legal pressure regarding a controversial decade-old deal to purchase six Chinese aircraft.

The nation's Supreme Court has issued a formal show-cause notice, demanding an explanation for a procurement process that has left the state-owned Nepal Airlines Corporation struggling with massive financial losses.

Between 2014 and 2018, Nepal acquired four Y12E planes and two MA60 turboprops using a mix of Chinese grants and loans totaling over 6 billion rupees. However, the investment quickly soured. Five of these planes have been grounded at Tribhuvan International Airport since 2020, gathering dust and depreciating in value, while a sixth aircraft was abandoned as scrap following a 2020 runway accident.

Experts and officials cite high fuel consumption, expensive spare parts, and poor performance for the grounding, which has turned these assets into a heavy financial burden. Public-interest activist Bhesh Raj Luintel filed a petition on June 25, alleging deep irregularities in the original decision-making process. The Supreme Court has now granted this case legal priority, ordering the government and anti-corruption bodies to explain why a thorough investigation has not yet been launched.

Petitioner Luintel is demanding a transparent, time-bound probe into all officials and consultants involved. Despite previous attempts to lease the idle fleet, no bids were received. With the public demanding accountability for the lost billions, the court's intervention marks a critical turning point in determining who will ultimately answer for this ill-fated aviation project.

S. Korea reviews critical wartime command transfer

SEOUL

South Korea's Defence Ministry has held a high-level review to accelerate the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) from the United States. Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back presided over the meeting, emphasizing the government's commitment to finalizing the transition before the end of President Lee Jae Myung's term in 2030.

The primary focus of the discussion was the verification of "Full Operational Capability" (FOC), the second stage of a three-part assessment process.

While Seoul is eager to expedite this timeline, there remains a noted gap between South Korean ambitions and the US requirement for all specific conditions to be met first. To bridge this, officials are working to establish a clear roadmap before the annual Security Consultative Meeting scheduled for October.

A significant portion of the briefing addressed military structural reforms. The South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) is actively transitioning special operations and other components into standing, permanent units. This shift ensures that American and South Korean troops can jointly manage operational plans and large-scale drills year-round, rather than only during crises.

South Korea's Defence Ministry held a high-level review to expedite the wartime operational control transfer from the US before President Lee's term ends in 2030

Minister Ahn expressed confidence that the necessary military and policy foundations, backed by strong public support, are ready for the transfer. The ministry is now focusing on ensuring the integrity of a South Korea-led joint defense posture for the future. With this review, Seoul aims to demonstrate its readiness to reclaim wartime control, a historic goal that would fundamentally reshape the longstanding security alliance between the two nations.

Indian Navy ships complete successful Thai mission

SATTAHIP

Three Indian Naval ships, INS Udaygiri, INS Shakti, and INS Kavaratti, have officially concluded their diplomatic visit to Sattahip, Thailand. The Eastern Fleet vessels received a warm, respectful farewell from the Royal Thai Navy, marking the end of a highly productive mission aimed at strengthening regional maritime ties.

Led by Rear Admiral Alok Ananda, the Indian fleet spent several days in Thailand engaging in activities designed to foster friendship and professional cooperation. Beyond tactical operations, the crews participated in shared yoga sessions and friendly sports matches, including a spirited volleyball game. These interactions were intended to build personal camaraderie and mutual understanding between the two maritime forces.

To cap off the visit, the Indian fleet conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) at sea alongside the Royal Thai Navy ship, HTMS Chao Phraya. This joint training exercise allowed both navies to practice working together effectively, ensuring they can better manage regional security challenges side-by-side in the future.

This deployment is part of India's ongoing "Act East" policy and the broader MAHASAGAR initiative. By focusing on the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation 2026, the visit reaffirms India's commitment to maintaining peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific.

The successful collaboration highlights the deep bonds between the two nations, setting a positive tone for future military partnerships. As the ships sail away, they leave behind a stronger foundation for maritime security, proving that teamwork is the best way to keep our shared waters safe and open for everyone.

Police arrest 900 during South Africa protests

JOHANNESBURG

South African police arrested more than 900 people following nationwide anti-migrant demonstrations.

The protests, organized by groups like "March and March," targeted undocumented foreigners after a self-imposed "deadline" for them to leave the country. While authorities deployed thousands of officers to maintain order, incidents of vandalism and intimidation occurred in several cities. President Cyril Ramaphosa had earlier condemned the vigilante rhetoric, emphasizing that the right to protest does not permit violence. Officials remain on high alert as tensions over unemployment and immigration policy persist.

Afghan air strikes target Pak border bases

KABUL

Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence launched precision airstrikes against alleged ISIS-linked targets inside Pakistan's Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Officials claim these sites served as coordination hubs for sabotage and recent attacks on Afghan civilians. The ministry reported "heavy casualties" among militants, asserting that no civilians were harmed during the operation. This military action follows recent Pakistani airstrikes in eastern Afghanistan that reportedly killed dozens of civilians, sparking sharp diplomatic protests from Kabul. As tensions reach a boiling point, Afghanistan has vowed to continue targeting any locations that threaten its national security and regional stability.

BUSINESS

Sitharaman begins France visit to boost economic ties

Sitharaman begins France visit to strengthen India-France economic ties, investment cooperation, and technology collaboration initiatives

NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has begun an official visit to France aimed at strengthening India–France economic relations, expanding investment opportunities, and enhancing cooperation in technology, innovation, and clean energy sectors.

During the visit, Sitharaman will co-chair the India–France Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in Aix-en-Provence along with France's Minister of Economy, Finance and Industrial and Energy Sovereignty Roland Lescure. The dialogue is expected to explore new areas of bilateral cooperation and deepen existing financial and economic partnerships between the two countries.

The Finance Minister will also engage with global chief executive officers and participate in a roundtable discussion with leading business leaders. These interactions are intended to highlight India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, ongoing structural reforms, and expanding investment landscape.

She is scheduled to speak at a panel discussion titled "How to Promote the Growth of a New Middle Class" at Les Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence, one of Europe's prominent forums for global economic dialogue. The event brings together policymakers, economists, central bankers, and industry leaders to discuss key global economic challenges and opportunities.

As part of her official itinerary, Sitharaman will visit the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project at Cadarache. ITER is one of the world's largest international scientific collaborations on nuclear fusion energy, involving more than 30 partner countries, including India and France.

She will also visit Campus Cyber, France's national hub for cybersecurity innovation and research. The visit is expected to promote knowledge sharing in cyber resilience, digital security, and innovation in the technology ecosystem.

In addition, the Finance Minister will meet Renaud Muselier, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, to discuss ways to enhance regional cooperation in investment, clean energy, technology, and economic development.

The visit underscores India's ongoing efforts to deepen strategic and economic ties with France and strengthen global partnerships across emerging sectors of growth.

India data centre market seen reaching $6.8 billion by FY30

NEW DELHI

India's data centre market is projected to grow fourfold to $6.8 billion by FY30, driven by artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and rising digital consumption, according to a KPMG in India report.

The report estimates that India's share of the global data centre market will nearly double from 2–3 per cent in FY26 to around 5 per cent by FY30, supported by strong demand, large-scale investments, and favourable government policies.

India's installed data centre capacity has already more than tripled since FY19 to about 1.9 gigawatts (GW) in FY26, with an additional 4.5 GW expected over the next five years. The expansion is being fuelled by hyperscale cloud providers, global digital platforms, and AI-focused companies, replacing the earlier dominance of enterprise and telecom demand.

AI and high-performance computing are expected to become the primary growth drivers, accounting for nearly 55 per cent of total capacity by FY30. This shift is prompting investments in AI-ready infrastructure with advanced cooling systems, higher power density, and GPU-intensive computing capabilities.

The report highlights India's competitive advantages, including lower construction costs, affordable power, and a large pool of IT and AI professionals. These factors position the country as an attractive destination for global digital infrastructure investments.

Rapid digital adoption is also accelerating demand, with more than 950 million internet users, over 660 million smartphone users, and rising data consumption across sectors.

The implementation of data localisation regulations, including the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, is expected to further boost domestic demand for data centres. According to the report, over $120 billion has already been committed by hyperscale cloud companies, global operators, and Indian firms, reflecting strong investor confidence in the sector.

Industry experts believe the convergence of AI, capital investment, and supportive policy frameworks is placing India at the forefront of global digital infrastructure development, making the country an increasingly important hub for next-generation data centre capacity.

QUICK READ

India retail leasing grows 17.6% in tight supply market

New Delhi

India's retail real estate sector recorded strong growth in Q2 2026, with gross leasing reaching 2.4 million sq ft across top eight cities, marking a 17.6 per cent year-on-year rise, according to a Cushman & Wakefield report. Leasing also rose 23.2 per cent quarter-on-quarter, driven by sustained occupier demand despite limited new supply. Total H1 2026 leasing stood at 4.35 million sq ft. Malls accounted for 51.3 per cent of leasing, while main streets contributed 48.7 per cent. Delhi NCR, Mumbai, and Hyderabad led activity, together accounting for 64 per cent of total leasing volume across the country.

Jivial Industries lists twenty percent lower on debut

Mumbai

Jivial Industries shares made a weak debut on the BSE SME platform on Wednesday, listing at Rs 156.80, a 20 per cent discount to the IPO price of Rs 196. The stock came under further selling pressure after listing, falling nearly 4 per cent from its opening level and at one point slipping over 22 per cent below the issue price. The IPO, open from June 23 to 25, was subscribed 93 per cent. The Rs 31.99 crore issue included a fresh issue and offer-for-sale. The aluminium railing manufacturer serves construction and design sectors across India and exports to Oman.

NPCI and HSBC enable real-time FX for global UPI payments

NEW DELHI

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced a strategic partnership with HSBC India to introduce real-time foreign exchange (FX) settlement for cross-border Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions, aiming to enhance transparency and efficiency in international digital payments.

Under the collaboration, HSBC India will provide live FX rates through direct application programming interface (API) integration. This will allow users to view the exact amount payable in Indian rupees at the time of transaction when making payments abroad, improving clarity and reducing uncertainty around currency conversion.

The initiative is expected to significantly improve the user experience for Indian travellers using UPI internationally. By enabling instant FX conversion and settlement, the system will ensure that merchants and financial institutions abroad receive payments in their local currencies without delays, making transactions smoother and more efficient.

NPCI stated that the partnership is a key step in strengthening the global acceptance of India's digital payments infrastructure. The organisation highlighted that the move will enhance operational efficiency in cross-border payments while supporting the expansion of UPI's international footprint.

An NPCI spokesperson noted that the collaboration with HSBC represents an important advancement in delivering real-time forex conversion and transparent pricing for users. The spokesperson added that it will improve convenience for customers while reinforcing trust in digital payment systems.

The API-based framework will leverage HSBC India's global banking network and payments infrastructure to enable secure, round-the-clock international transactions. This is expected to make UPI-based payments faster, more reliable, and more widely accepted across global markets.

At present, UPI services are operational in nine countries, including Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Nepal, Bhutan, Mauritius, France, Sri Lanka, Qatar, and Cambodia. These integrations allow Indian users to make QR-code-based payments directly from their domestic bank accounts in rupees while travelling abroad.

NPCI, which operates under the guidance of the Reserve Bank of India and the Indian Banks' Association, has been central to building India's digital payments ecosystem.

Zostel dispute may force 7% stake transfer

MUMBAI

Prism, the parent company of OYO, has flagged its ongoing legal dispute with Zostel in its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed ahead of its proposed IPO. The company warned that an adverse ruling in the case could materially impact its business, reputation, and financial condition. It added that a final unfavorable decision may require issuance or transfer of up to 7 per cent of its shareholding, or payment of an equivalent monetary value, to Zostel and other parties. The dispute arises from a failed acquisition deal, with arbitration and court proceedings still pending.

KCA revokes three- year ban on former India pacer Sreesanth

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cricket Association (KCA) on Wednesday revoked the three-year ban imposed on former India fast bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth after accepting his unconditional apology for remarks made against the association.

The decision was taken at a special general body meeting of the KCA, which resolved to withdraw the disciplinary action imposed on the former international cricketer last year.

According to an official statement issued by the association, the ban was lifted after Sreesanth submitted an unconditional apology expressing regret over his comments directed at the KCA.

The association said Sreesanth acknowledged that his statements had caused concern and conveyed his willingness to move forward in a constructive manner. Taking note of his apology, the general body decided to revoke the suspension with immediate effect.

The KCA had imposed the three-year ban ahead of the previous edition of the Kerala Cricket League (KCL), alleging that Sreesanth had made defamatory remarks against the association.

The disciplinary action effectively barred him from participating in KCA-related cricketing activities and events.

The lifting of the ban clears the way for Sreesanth to once again engage with cricket activities conducted under the KCA's jurisdiction, although the association has not specified whether he will haveany immediate role in the Kerala Cricket League or other domestic compet tions. Sreesanth, who represented India in all three formats and was part of the country's victorious squads in the 2007 ICC T20 World Cup and the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup, has remained a prominent figure in Indian cricket despite a career marked by controversy.

The latest development signals an end to the standoff between the former pacer and the Kerala Cricket Association.

While the KCA has not disclosed further details of the discussions leading to the decision, it said the apology and expression of regret formed the basis for revoking the ban.The move is expected to help restore cordial relations between the former India speedster and the state's cricket governing body after nearly a year of disciplinary action.

Kerala Cricket Association revokes Sreesanth's ban after accepting his unconditional apology and regret.

Iyer hints at cautious approach over Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's England debut

CHESTER-LE-STREET

India captain Shreyas Iyer has dropped a subtle hint that teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi may have to wait for his international debut, stressing the importance of backing the players who helped India win the ICC Men's T20 World Cup a few months ago.

Iyer avoided confirming whether the 15-year-old would feature in the playing XI, despite growing anticipation surrounding the youngster's debut.

Sooryavanshi has been one of the most talked-about names since being included in India's squads for the tours of Ireland and England. However, accommodating the promising left-hander would likely require breaking up the successful opening partnership of Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma, both of whom played key roles in India's recent T20 success.

"All the players in the team have performed well; it's not that only one individual has performed well," Iyer told reporters.

"We have to build opportunity and security so that each individual has confidence going forward into tournaments. The players who won the last World Cup know how to play T20 cricket, and they have continuously been the main pillars of this format. It is very important to back them," he added.

Iyer also reflected on India's disappointing series defeat to Ireland, the first-ever against the hosts, describing it as "depressing" rather than embarrassing.

"It wasn't embarrassing, but it was depressing because we didn't expect Ireland to play that well. They outplayed us in every department," he admitted.

The skipper credited Ireland for making better use of local conditions, saying India had fallen short in analysing the pitch and ground dimensions.

Despite the setback, Iyer believes the experience has helped the team prepare better for the England challenge.

"We learnt a lot from that series. This is a completely new chapter for us. A few of us have played in England before, we understand the conditions and the dimensions here, and we're looking forward to an intense and challenging series," he said.

India begin the T20I series against England on Wednesday, with all eyes on whether the highly-rated Sooryavanshi earns his long-awaited international debut or waits for another opportunity.

McCullum reveals failed bid to convince Stokes against international retirement

LONDON

England head coach Brendon McCullum has revealed that he made a last-ditch attempt to persuade Test captain Ben Stokes to reconsider his decision to retire from international cricket, but quickly realised the all-rounder had firmly made up his mind.

Stokes announced his retirement during the fourth day of England's third and final Test against New Zealand national cricket team at Trent Bridge, a decision that surprised fans and the cricketing fraternity. England eventually lost the match by 160 runs, conceding the three-match series 1-2.

McCullum said his initial reaction was to convince Stokes to continue, but it soon became clear that the England skipper had reached his decision after careful thought.

"When he confirmed to me that he was going to retire, first I tried to talk him down," McCullum said with a laugh. "It became pretty obvious that he had made his decision and he was at peace with it."

The New Zealander admitted feeling emotional after accepting Stokes' decision, reflecting on the close bond they had developed over the past four years.

McCullum admits Stokes rejected pleas, remaining completely at peace with retirement decision throughout.

"You've been on this journey together for four years and it's been a real thrill. I feel very privileged to have worked closely with Stokesy throughout that time and to consider him a good friend," McCullum said.

Describing Stokes as a "leader of men", McCullum praised his influence both on and off the field, saying his conviction and belief inspired confidence across the dressing room.

"In a game filled with variables and inconsistencies, Ben brought consistency through his belief in every situation. That gave everyone around him a real sense of calm," he said.

McCullum added that replacing a player and leader of Stokes' calibre would be a significant challenge, but insisted the England team would first celebrate his remarkable career before planning for the future.

He also said he wanted Stokes' retirement announcement to be made public early enough to allow supporters an opportunity to give him a fitting farewell, describing the all-rounder as a cricketer whose impact extended beyond the sport.

Looking ahead, McCullum expressed confidence in England's future, saying his commitment to the team remained unwavering and that the side would continue building its identity under a new leader.

Bengaluru's P. Abhay Surya wins four gold medals at Karnataka shooting championship

BENGALURU

Young Bengaluru shooter P. Abhay Surya, a Class 10 student of St. Joseph's School, produced a remarkable performance at the 14th Karnataka State Shooting Championship, winning four gold medals in the 10-metre Open Sight Rifle event organised by the Karnataka State Rifle Association.

Abhay dominated the competition by securing gold medals across four categories — Men's, Junior Men's, Youth, and Sub-Youth — underlining his exceptional talent and consistency against competitors from different age groups.His clean sweep at one of Karnataka's premier shooting competitions has earned him widespread appreciation from the sporting fraternity.

Young Bengaluru marksman sweeps four golds, earning statewide recognition and widespread acclaim instantly.

The outstanding achievement also drew congratulations from Siddaramaiah, who commended the young shooter for bringing laurels to the state through his exceptional performance.

Winning across multiple categories is considered a rare feat in competitive shooting, as it demands sustained focus, precision and composure over successive rounds. Abhay's success reflects years of dedicated train ing and discipline, making him one of the most promising young shooting talents in Karnataka.

The 14th Karnataka State Shooting Championship brought together leading shooters from across the state to compete in various rifle and pistol disciplines. Strong performances at the event are regarded as an important mil estone for athletes aspiring to compete at the national level.

Abhay's four-gold haul has further strengthened his reputation as a rising star in Indian shooting. With his impressive showing at the state championship, the Bengaluru youngster is expected to bui ld on this success in future national competitions, carrying the hopes of Karnataka's shooting community and inspiring many aspiring marksmen to pursue excellence in the sport.

Serena's Wimbledon comeback ends in first- round singles defeat to Maya Joint

LONDON

Serena Williams's dream of a fairytale return to Wimbledon came to an end in the first round as the seven-time champion lost a gripping three-set contest to Australia's Maya Joint.

Playing her first Wimbledon singles match in four years, the 44-year-old American battled bravely before going down 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 in a contest lasting two hours and 22 minutes on Centre Court.

Williams' comeback had captured the imagination of tennis fans around the world, with many hoping the legendary champion could script another memorable chapter at the All England Club. However, despite flashes of the brilliance that made her one of the greatest players in the sport's history, she was unable to overcome the younger and inspired Australian.

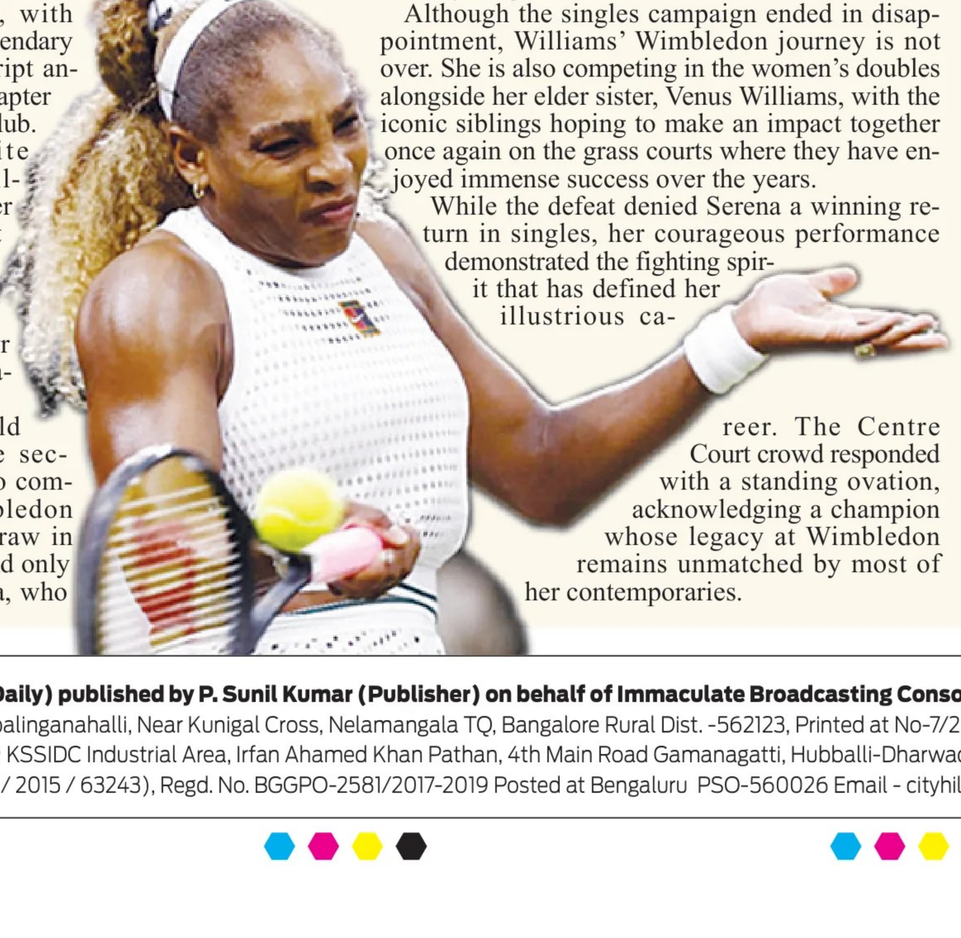
The former world No. 1 became the second-oldest player to compete in the Wimbledon women's singles draw in the Open Era, behind only Martina Navratilova, who reached the second round at the age of 47 in 2004.

After dropping the opening set, Williams showed remarkable resilience in the second. She saved two match points before edging a tense tie-break to force a deciding set, drawing loud cheers from the Centre Court crowd.

The American looked poised for a stunning comeback after breaking early in the third set, but Joint responded impressively. The Australian regained control with aggressive baseline play and won the final five games to seal one of the biggest victories of her young career.

Although the singles campaign ended in disappointment, Williams' Wimbledon journey is not over. She is also competing in the women's doubles alongside her elder sister, Venus Williams, with the iconic siblings hoping to make an impact together once again on the grass courts where they have enjoyed immense success over the years.

While the defeat denied Serena a winning return in singles, her courageous performance demonstrated the fighting spirit that has defined her illustrious career. The Centre Court crowd responded with a standing ovation, acknowledging a champion whose legacy at Wimbledon remains unmatched by most of her contemporaries.



Hardik Pandya relocates to Bengaluru, makes BCCI COE permanent training base

NEW DELHI

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has relocated to Bengaluru, making the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Centre of Excellence (COE) his permanent training base for the remainder of his playing career, becoming the first prominent centrally contracted Indian cricketer to take such a step.

The move marks a significant departure from the norm, as India's centrally contracted players usually visit the COE only for injury rehabilitation, fitness assessments or national training camps.

Hardik, who hails from Baroda in Gujarat, spent much of the last decade living in Mumbai, where he primarily trained at his Indian Premier League franchise Mumbai Indians' facilities. However, the 32-year-old has now rented a residence on the outskirts of Bengaluru, close to the COE, to facilitate year-round access to world-class training and rehabilitation facilities.

According to a BCCI source, Hardik decided to relocate after finding the daily commute from his Mumbai residence increasingly difficult. The move is expected to help him better manage his workload, fitness and recovery while extending his international career.

"As a centrally contracted player, he has access to every facility at the COE, from injury management to skill development. He intends to make it his base whenever he is not on national, IPL or domestic duty," the source said.

Hardik chooses Bengaluru's Centre of Excellence as long-term training base for international cricket.

Currently recovering from a quadriceps injury that ruled him out of India's ongoing white-ball tour of the United Kingdom, Hardik has spent considerable time at the Bengaluru facility over the past six months as part of his rehabilitation programme.

The all-rounder is also understood to have appointed a personal physiotherapist and a strength and conditioning coach to complement the support available at the COE. Even during skill sessions, including batting practice against net bowlers arranged through the facility, Hardik reportedly bears the additional costs himself. His rehabilitation remains ongoing after a brief break for personal commitments, and he is expected to return to the COE shortly to continue his recovery.

It remains uncertain whether Hardik will be available for selection for India's upcoming three-match T20 International series against Zimbabwe. His participation will depend on successfully completing the BCCI's Return-to-Play protocols and being declared fully fit by the medical team before the squad is finalised.

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